

BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR
BUREAU OF STATE AUDITS

In the matter of

Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC)
Applicant Review Panel (ARP)

555 Capitol Mall, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
9:30 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

Members Present

Nasir Ahmadi, Chair
Lynn Reich, His Advisor

Mary Camacho, Vice Chair
Bob LaLiberte, Her Advisor

Kerri Spano, Panel Member
Raul Villanueva, Her Advisor

Staff Present

Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway, Panel Counsel
Diane Hamel, Executive Secretary

Public

John Ryan
Jim Wright

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

9:29 A.M.

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CHAIR AHMADI: Good morning, everyone. It is 9:29

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and we are back on the record.

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ITEM 5. Public Comment about Applicants

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CHAIR AHMADI: Yesterday, we discussed Item 5, which

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was public comment about applicants, and I believe that this

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morning we will still stay on that item and get public

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comments, so if anyone has any public comments, please take

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the podium and share your comments with the Panel, please.

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Seeing that we don't have any public comments at this point,

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and just to make sure that those members of the public, who

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may be on their way, will get here, I think we should stand

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at ease for about five minutes. Thank you.

15

(Off the record at 9:30 A.M.)

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(Back on the record at 9:37 A.M.)

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CHAIR AHMADI: It is 9:37 now and we will continue

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with our Agenda Item 5, so if any members of the public have

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any comments at this point, we would like to hear from you.

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Please take the podium and state your name for the record,

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please.

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MR. RYAN: My name is John Ryan. I am here as an

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interested citizen and I am a student at Sacramento State.

24

I am also the President of the Sac State College Democrats

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and a member of the California Young Democrats. I came to

1 this meeting because of the importance of selecting who will
2 serve on this first Redistricting Commission. I really
3 appreciate how open and transparent the process has been.

4 One thing that needs to be improved by BSA in the
5 future, I feel, is that all information collected about
6 applicants should be posted before the written public
7 comment period ends. This certainly was not the case this
8 time. There were more than four reports by BSA staff posted
9 over the written comment period, after the written comment
10 period had ended. As the bidding process for the
11 prospective Commissioners has unfolded, more information has
12 come to light about the candidates who have applied to
13 become Commissioners.

14 Reading the initial applications, you form one
15 opinion about their qualifications and their impartiality
16 and, then, as you read the additional information collected
17 by the BSA Auditors, you find out new facts that bring in
18 the question whether or not some candidates have included
19 relevant information that should have been included in their
20 initial application. In just the past few days, the public
21 has attained more information from the BSA website about
22 some of these individuals. I believe that each person who
23 ultimately serves on this first Redistricting Commission
24 must be fully committed to draw the Districts in conformance
25 with strict, nonpartisan rules that follow the State

1 Constitution and Federal Voting Rights Act. The rules were
2 designed to create Districts of relatively equal population
3 that will provide fair representation for all Californians.

4 The reason that I am here to publicly comment is
5 that, after reviewing the information available as of
6 yesterday on the BSA online website and other public
7 websites, is that I feel there are a number of individuals
8 in the final 120 applicants who are so partisan that, in my
9 judgment, they can't effectively meet the requirement to be
10 independent and put aside strongly held partisan interests
11 as required by Proposition 11.

12 Let me provide some examples. If you look at Davin
13 McAndrews' Facebook page, you will find as devoted a
14 partisan Republican as any you will find anywhere. Michael
15 Ward, who has a bright future with the Republican Party, as
16 evidenced by his strong involvement with the Chapman College
17 Young Democrats. Jodi Filkins-Weber is indeed a Republican
18 party regular, as evidenced by her very active involvement
19 with the Norco Republican Women. And Michal Briggs, Martin
20 Lax, and Evelyn Zneimer have all proven to be true believers
21 in the Republican cause by giving their time, talent, and
22 particularly their Treasurer, thousands of dollars to the
23 National Republican Movement. I know this doesn't
24 disqualify them under Proposition 11, but does give one
25 pause regarding which political parties' interests will be

1 put first if they were to serve on the Commission.

2 It was not initially disclosed that Peggy Huang's
3 husband is a major donor to the Republican Party, or that
4 Skip Jorgensen works for the State Legislature and works
5 with one of the Chief Republican Redistricting Strategists
6 in the Legislature. I understand that this is not
7 technically a conflict of interest, but it certainly casts
8 out about Mr. Jorgensen's ability to be impartial. Ron
9 Wilczynski's brother was recently appointed by Governor
10 Arnold Schwarzenegger to be a Judge, and Gabriel Morales
11 mentioned in his interview that he has only worked in
12 passing with State Legislatures or other staff. But the
13 record shows that he has a solid and close relationship with
14 now State Senator Sam Blakeslee and his staff. Again,
15 although these are not technical conflicts of interest, they
16 certainly suggest a lack of impartiality.

17 In summary, I believe that these individuals, while
18 outstanding citizens and participants in the political
19 process, will not be able to be impartial and may, in fact,
20 inhibit the Commission's ability to come up with a
21 redistricting plan that is good for all Californians. I
22 feel it is important that we keep this process as
23 transparent as possible and only wish that more complete
24 information would come to light sooner in the process, and I
25 would urge the BSA to take steps to ensure that, in 10

1 years, when people apply to the Commission, that the
2 accuracy and the completeness of the Commission applications
3 is fully researched, in a timely manner, using all available
4 information resources. Thank you for your time.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much, appreciate that.
6 Stephanie, do you have any comments?

7 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I do. I would add that, as
8 you know, there's a statutory deadline of October 1st by
9 which we must have the names and materials relating to the
10 60 applicants whose names are selected and presented to the
11 Legislature. Additionally, the law requires that
12 opportunities for written public comment be provided over
13 the course of the selection process, beginning at Phase 1,
14 that has been provided and we have had repeated opportunity
15 for both written and verbal public comment and, as you may
16 also be aware, any written public comment that is received
17 by the Bureau about an applicant, the applicant must have an
18 opportunity to respond to that public comment before we can
19 post it as part of our open and transparent process. And
20 so, given our statutory deadline and the date that it is
21 today, it is really not possible for us to have extended the
22 written public comment period. We understand your concerns
23 and we are glad that you came here today, that is the point
24 of Bagley-Keene, that if you can't provide a comment in
25 writing, you come to the meeting and let us know your

1 concerns, and so I thank you for that, but I do hope you
2 understand that the law, as written, and the deadlines that
3 we had, compromise in some way our abilities to extend
4 written public comment this late in the game.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, Stephanie. Do we have any
6 other public comment on Agenda Item 5? Seeing that we don't
7 have any, any other public comments, I think we can move on
8 to our next item.

9 **ITEM 6. Applicant Selection and Reduction of Applicant Pool**

10 CHAIR AHMADI: Item 6 is the Applicant Selection and
11 Reduction of Applicant Pool. As we have discussed
12 yesterday, our Counsel distributed those reports, we saw the
13 list of reports that showed the number of applicants who
14 have received three favorable votes and none of those lists
15 suggested that we have 20, so that means that we have to
16 discuss and deliberate on who to bring in to make our list
17 of 20 in compliance with the Voters FIRST Act.

18 So, I would like to open the discussion for the
19 panel to start with - I wanted to suggest to start with the
20 Republican sub pool if that is okay with you, Mary, and with
21 you, Kerri?

22 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yes.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yeah, that is fine. I agree
24 with you, I think that starting with this lower amount where
25 we only have to fill in about four applicants is a good

1 idea.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes. For the record, do we need to
3 read the names of those individuals who have received three
4 favorable votes to begin with?

5 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: It is posted on the website
6 already and the reports have been made available. I don't
7 think you need to do that.

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. So, do you
9 have anybody in mind to bring for discussion, Mary or Kerri?

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Please.

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I would like to bring forward
13 for discussion Larry Kerr.

14 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

15 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You are ready. I will wait for
16 Mary.

17 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Not just yet. I am ready now.

18 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay. This gentleman
19 represents North Coast County, Humboldt Region. He is
20 retired currently, so he has the availability and time for
21 the commitment of a Commissioner. He is ex-LAPD for several
22 - over 20 years, and an Ex-marine, as well. And I felt that
23 he was very - during our interview, I thought this gentleman
24 would make a great Commissioner in terms of his
25 approachability. I think the members of the public would

1 actually feel comfortable. I don't see a hard conflict
2 there. When I saw him speak, I saw somebody who was very
3 approachable and willing to listen. I thought it was
4 interesting when we asked him what unique skills he can
5 bring to the Commission; he said his perspective, as well as
6 all his other qualities that he's gained working with
7 diverse groups and people throughout his career. He
8 believes strongly in the redistricting laws and transparency
9 also of always being aware, as he responded in his
10 interview. I liked his response to the qualities in the
11 Commissioner. I thought he had a good perspective on the
12 responsibilities of the Commission work. I thought he had
13 super conflict resolution skills he demonstrated on several
14 occasions, and his work with diverse groups, also. And I
15 found that he had hands-on involvement in attaining
16 communities' input and he found great value in including
17 that and capturing that in his work.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Do you have any comment at this
19 point, Mary?

20 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes. Yes, I do. I have some
21 reservations about his ability to interact effectively with
22 the public. I felt he brought up some enforcement
23 terminology during his interview and that might affect some
24 of the individuals that would be at the public hearings.
25 Also, I noticed that maybe with the interactions with the

1 Commissioners, he saw a lot of areas that were more black
2 and white, very distinctive. I didn't see the flexibility
3 within his presentation and his ability to be flexible. It
4 was hard for me to discern what he truly believed in, also.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: I share somewhat similar concerns
6 like you, Mary. I came to this meeting with having an
7 unfavorable vote for this individual. Mr. Kerr definitely
8 is very successful and he is one of our 20 applicants, and
9 no doubt all of the things that you said, Kerri, I agree
10 with in terms of his abilities and all that. When I
11 compared his qualifications and abilities with other
12 applicants that I have in the pool, there were two - just to
13 share with you - there were two areas that concerned me a
14 little bit, and I want to share that with you and, please,
15 let's talk about it to see whether or not you agree with me.
16 One of the concerns I have based on the application
17 material, on the diversity of the Commission, applicant
18 states that - and this is a quote - "If we are going to have
19 people feeling good about the Commission, we have to reflect
20 them in superficial ways." So, my interpretation of that
21 "superficial ways" was something that concerned me. Maybe
22 this statement demonstrates maybe a lack of understanding of
23 the benefits of the diverse population and implies the
24 "appearance" of diversity is what's important, not the
25 factual diversity, so that was kind of like the

1 interpretation that I had from that phrase, which concerned
2 me. And the other concern that I have in the interview,
3 applicant stated that Blacks tend to be - and I am just
4 quoting - "Blacks tend to be monolithic in their voting
5 patterns." To me, again, you know, there's nothing wrong
6 with having that opinion, but, again, when it comes to my
7 interpretation, to me, it sounds a little stereotyping. So,
8 those were the main reasons, nothing else, and for those
9 reasons I thought maybe, instead of him, having someone
10 which I will share with you now, David Ikari. When I looked
11 back at the application material and the interview and the
12 information he shared with us, I didn't see any statement
13 that caused a concern on my part.

14 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I liked David Ikari also.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: You do, too?

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yeah, he was another individual
17 I was going to bring up.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, so do you have any comments
19 about my concerns? Or do you agree or disagree? Did you
20 see it the same way? Or -

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Some of his viewpoints were
22 very strong, I thought. You know, I thought he could set
23 aside his personal opinions. The monolithic comment was a
24 little stereotypical, but I didn't think it would hurt his
25 ability to do Commission work. But, since you both express

1 certain reservations about the extent of questions
2 surrounding his flexibility, what is important to me is also
3 the ability to work in groups. I thought that he could, but
4 if you feel strongly that he cannot, I'm willing to look at
5 this applicant again, just to see. But I can set him aside
6 for now and maybe move on and talk about Applicant Ikari if
7 you feel like it. Mary, did you have any other comments to
8 make?

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No.

10 CHAIR AHMADI: Before we get to the next one, just
11 to make sure, so are you tabling this application?

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yes, I would like to.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. Mary, do
14 you -

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So we are going to talk now
16 about Ikari?

17 CHAIR AHMADI: He is one of the applicants that I
18 have on my list -

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: -- to bring for discussion.

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Did you want to talk about
22 someone else?

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No, no, I'm willing to discuss
24 Ikari right now, that's fine.

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I have all my documents. Do
2 you?

3 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

4 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. I agree, I think Ikari
5 could bring some good qualities to the Commission, so I
6 think he should be added to the list.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. Go ahead.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I agree. And to give you more
9 of my perspective, when I reviewed his application again,
10 and together with his interview, I found that he made a lot
11 of good statements about the Commission's work and the role
12 he would play. I believe he would work effectively and
13 interact with the group members in public very effectively,
14 as well. And I believe he has the ability to arrive at
15 consensus and find the common goal and common ground in
16 group discussions. He is used to dealing with the public
17 and diverse stakeholders, he has provided public testimony
18 for the Legislature, so he has got the ability to defend his
19 work, as necessary, and gather the facts and analysis as
20 required in our regulations for the analytical ability.
21 Let's see, I also thought he felt strongly about balancing
22 competing factors on the Commission because there may be
23 some of those individuals where their interests are going to
24 be - or the public -- will be really important to them in
25 kind of getting an idea of how to discern that.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I would also like to add that
2 he lived in the Southern California area, even though he is
3 currently residing in Northern California, he has experience
4 in Southern California, and he has lived there for quite a
5 few years.

6 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah, I agree with both of you and,
7 as I said, he was one of the individuals on my list to bring
8 forward for discussion. I am glad to hear from you guys
9 that you are happy with his qualifications and ability to do
10 the job, which is important. So, unless you guys have any
11 further comments about him, I think we can move forward by
12 adding him to the tentative list at this point.

13 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. So we are going
16 to add David K. Ikari.

17 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Got him.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I would like to bring up for
20 discussion Roy Salume.

21 CHAIR AHMADI: And I am ready.

22 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: You are ready?

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Nope.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, no problem, we will wait.

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I am ready now.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I thought this applicant was
2 very calm and approachable. He had a sense of humor. One
3 thing that I did notice with him was his interview - he
4 liked to have more of a discussion, so he did kind of
5 interrupt, but I think it was more not to cut people off,
6 but to gain more information from individuals. He is very
7 involved in his community. He has Board experience and he
8 understands Hispanic issues.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: I agree. Let me - may I, Kerri?

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Go right ahead.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. He was one of the
12 individuals I had on my list to bring forward for inclusion
13 in the tentative list. And I found him very personable and
14 committed to the public service, both from his interview and
15 his application material. He has shown me he has positive
16 experience on the School Board, even with difficulties,
17 which is valuable, like working with communities, that was
18 important for me, positive experience on a Grand Jury, which
19 I believe is also important and relevant to the work of the
20 Commission, appears to like working in group for common
21 objectives or common goals. And he fielded questions in an
22 open manner, but sometimes did not, as you said, Mary, but
23 if you look at the positive side of being open and having
24 casual discussion is also valuable, and no doubt the
25 Commissioners will engage in conversations with the public,

1 and an ability to be connected to the people in terms of
2 talking to them and communicating with them is valuable.
3 And he seems that he would take the job and run with it,
4 which is important. So, I can go on and on, but I agree
5 with you that he is one of those individuals that I believe
6 will be successful in doing the job of the Commission, so I
7 would like to add him to our list of tentative 20.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I have concerns about this
9 Applicant, but I appreciate hearing yours. I think I do
10 acknowledge his School Board experience, his Grand Jury
11 experience is very valuable to have as background for a
12 Commissioner. I did see him engaging in more of a
13 discussion type of interaction with the panel members during
14 this interview, however, I have concerns about his
15 willingness to listen to others, and I know, Mary, you
16 stated that, you know, he was trying to get clarification,
17 but you know, he has told us that a Commissioner has to have
18 the capability to listen to understand what was said and to
19 understand the meaning behind the data, that is where you
20 get that, but in spite of his statement, he proceeded to
21 interpret the panel members repeatedly - interrupt the panel
22 members repeatedly while he was being asked questions. He
23 interrupted Nasir once, he interrupted you five times, and
24 me seven times. The ability and willingness of a
25 Commissioner to listen to other Commissioners, to Counsel,

1 and to members of the public is critical to the work of the
2 Commission. I think his frequent interruptions did not
3 leave me confident in his listening skills. I also have
4 concerns about his views - how this applicant views public
5 input in relation to redistricting. For example, Mary, I
6 believe you asked him, "Do you believe that redistricting
7 could be performed via a mapping system completely," to
8 which Mr. Salume responds in affirmative, but adds that
9 people would need to be involved because they need to
10 involve human judgment. When my turn came, I asked him to
11 explain this also, "You said you mentioned there is value in
12 the process. Can you elaborate on that, value in the people
13 and the process?" He restated that people need to be part
14 of the process because he seemed to imply that, at some
15 time, he may not have been completely comfortable with this.
16 I mean, I don't know, this is my impression. "I believe,
17 you know, this is government, is a human process, political
18 processes are not mechanical processes, they are not
19 electronic processes purely, and they are human beings who
20 are involved. You need people in the process. People need
21 to be involved. That's just the nature of the beast. So, I
22 have gotten over that."

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Well, if that is what he said,
24 I agree with him. People need to be involved with this
25 process; it's not just going to be a computerized process.

1 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: No, I acknowledge that. It
2 just sounds like he reluctantly feels that people need to be
3 involved in the process. I didn't think that was the
4 forefront and important to him.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: He says in his interview -- his
7 public comment posted that during his tenure with San Mateo,
8 the Grand Jury, before an investigation involving the
9 placement of District clients, "If you're not prohibited,
10 can you tell us a little bit about that experience?" And
11 his response centered on the impact to candidates and the
12 cost of running their campaigns; the place on the citizens
13 and their voices were absent. And that was a little
14 concerning to me. And he mentions in other responses, also,
15 that the needs of politicians, or the needs of citizens,
16 were also noted. So, I'm just wondering how important it is
17 to him, the value of the citizens and their responses, and
18 community input.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. I do see your interpretation
20 of his statements and, as Mary suggested, and I stated, as
21 well, I do share your first comment about his style of
22 communication during the interview, and as I mentioned, you
23 know, you can interpret that either way, positive or
24 negative. I took it as positive because I wanted to make
25 that, you know, one of the values that I saw in that was,

1 you know, the ability to be on a casual basis, communicating
2 and sharing information. I didn't get offended by that or
3 anything, especially you mentioned, you counted the number
4 of times, so maybe it is because he interrupted me just one
5 time. I didn't see that as an interruption. But -

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: No, I hear - no, please go on.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: So, that's, you know, subjective.

8 And I don't mind if we table this for now and come back to
9 it because I have other applicants on my list, and I'm sure
10 Mary will have other applicants in her list to bring
11 forward. But I do share some of your comments. But, to me,
12 it's not that I didn't come across that information, but my
13 concern was not to a level that would cause me to say no to
14 him because, at the same time, in my judgment, I made some
15 assumptions that he didn't mean it the way you interpreted
16 that, so that was the reason I said, you know, he is
17 probably going to be successful as a Commissioner.

18 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: I appreciate your sharing with us and
20 it's valuable, so I don't mind looking back at this and
21 seeing if there is somebody else who may be competing with
22 this individual.

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, thank you.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: No problem. Do you agree, Mary that
25 we are going to table this for now?

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes, that's fine.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. And I think it is
3 my turn now? I would like to bring Peter Yao for
4 discussion.

5 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I am ready.

6 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So am I.

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. So, I bring him
9 for discussion because, in my judgment, he will be very
10 successful in the Commission. Mr. Yao has extensive local
11 government experience, he is sensible; he is pragmatic, and
12 well-grounded. And he is committed to give up other
13 optional opportunities that he has if selected as a
14 Commissioner. I would like to say that one of the concerns
15 that I initially had about one of the statements that he
16 made in the interview in regard to the voters got diminished
17 after he clarified that statement. Based on my notes, he
18 made it clear that there's a difference between the person
19 who consciously decides not to vote, for example, as a
20 matter of principle, doesn't believe in it, etc., and the
21 person who cannot vote, or does not vote because he or she
22 believes it would not make a difference. So, after that
23 clarification, I have no more concern about that statement.
24 And I am sharing this with you because you may have similar
25 concerns about that statement. Other than that, I found him

1 very friendly individual, well experienced, and I have no
2 doubt that he is going to be successful to be one of the
3 Commissioners.

4 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree. He has, you know, a
5 lot of Board experience and knowledge about his community,
6 however, that focus in his interview, I did not feel, was
7 diminished. It was a constant statement that he made. He
8 did make some clarification, but I found it that there was
9 very much a political focus on the issues and the people,
10 and coming from an elected official, that kind of surprised
11 me, and it kind of concerned me, so I am unsure if he would
12 be able to really listen to all the individuals during a
13 public meeting with that focus. And I know there was one
14 statement he made that he'd listen to the voters first and
15 everyone else, I think it was second, that's not a verbatim,
16 but that's how I interpreted it.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: No, I agree with you. Initially, I
18 had some concerns, but, again, maybe if you can take a look
19 back at the questions, towards the end of the interview -

20 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I did, because this was one
21 individual that I did take a look at his transcript. I am
22 willing to take a look at him again, but I would like to
23 table this individual. But let's hear from Kerri.

24 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I liked this candidate and I
25 did want to bring him forward for discussion. At first, I

1 was concerned about any potential ties to the Legislature or
2 elected officials and I thought that we fleshed that out
3 fairly well during our discussion, during our interview, so
4 those concerns were alleviated. I thought that he true
5 respect and appreciation for the Voter Rights Act and he had
6 an appreciation for the political preferences, at least in
7 terms of geography, because we did ask him something
8 specific about that. I think he is flexible. I
9 particularly thought that his explanation about the homeless
10 and how dedicated he was to address that issue, despite the
11 public not really appreciating, I think, his views, I think
12 he really took a step back and listened, and he got the
13 businesses involved. I think this person has the ability to
14 work with diverse groups effectively. I think he shows a
15 demonstration to collaborate well with others. But, Mary, I
16 heard your concerns, and so I will revisit this one because
17 you wanted to table it?

18 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes. And there was also,
19 talking about the homeless, I did read over that, I thought
20 that was commendable, but it was very interesting that it
21 was a monetary contribution to a nonprofit agency where it
22 wasn't really the city being involved, or him being
23 involved. So that was another thing. And then, with the
24 homelessness, there was the Census and he just informed the
25 Census workers where they could go, so I didn't really see

1 that involvement with the individuals, other than sitting
2 behind a Council - a desk.

3 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I do find value, though, at
4 least directing them in the proper places to go, where they
5 can probably do the most effective count, if he wasn't able
6 to, for whatever reason, he didn't elaborate, I guess we
7 didn't get that information to clear that. But, you know,
8 he's got a lot of experience in his local community that I
9 think he can provide, but I hear your concerns.

10 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. So we're going to table
11 him for now also?

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Did you want to mention
13 something?

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Well, I'm okay if we table him -

15 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Can I make a recommendation?

16 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure, please.

17 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I'm not clear what you mean
18 by "tabling." What I would recommend is that you agree to
19 go back and review these individuals one more time instead
20 of tabling them. I think we're going to end up very
21 confused about how we are looking at, at the end, and who
22 we're not looking at, at the end, and then you'll go back to
23 your offices and look at different people, and come back in
24 the exact same place you are in now. So, I would recommend
25 that, for now, you keep a running list that includes Mr.

1 Ikari, who I think you all agree on, and then we have so far
2 talked about Mr. Kerr, Mr. Salume, and Mr. Yao. I think
3 that you should look at them instead of tabling them. I
4 remember last time we got into this discussion where we had
5 tabled somebody and then we couldn't figure out what we were
6 doing, so I would just recommend that you sort of add those
7 to the list of people that you go back and consider when you
8 take your break.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure. So we're going to add Mr.
10 Peter Yao to our list, so we can take a look again.

11 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: And Mr. Kerr and Salume.

12 CHAIR AHMADI: And Mr. Kerr and Mr. Salume, correct.
13 That is actually what I meant by "tabling" because I wanted
14 to add it to the list and then take a break and look back at
15 the application material and interview information, and come
16 back and discuss them again. But, thanks, Stephanie. So,
17 right now, we have added four individuals to our list. The
18 next one - oh, actually, last time I brought somebody in, so
19 it is your turn, Mary - or, Kerri, your turn.

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Let's see. I want to bring up
21 for discussion, for further discussion, Peggy Huang.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I am ready.

24 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, I wanted to bring this
25 candidate forward as one of the earlier candidates, I

1 believe the first day we interviewed, and she represents the
2 Southern Coastal Region Orange County, she is a trial
3 attorney, she has a unique ability to work with diverse
4 groups, I found, in her explanation of working with the
5 troubled children. She had a particularly good response, I
6 believe, to the qualities of a good Commissioner. And I
7 thought her trial experience was really critical in terms of
8 her ability to just not give up on people and work through
9 solutions and reasonable solutions and evaluate criteria and
10 information so that she has the best solution for the needs
11 of her client, and to consider both who she represents and
12 opposing counsel in the situation of the children that she
13 mentioned, and I thought that she wasn't selfish, she has
14 respect for others' opinions. She appears to have the
15 ability to listen well, has good active listening without
16 interrupting, obstructing the speakers. She finds value in
17 soliciting input and gathering information, especially in
18 her fellow work - the State Senator when she was doing the
19 bill analysis, the bill survey - study, I mean. She found
20 that - I thought it was interesting how, by the time that
21 she was done with her evaluation, it wasn't a workable
22 solution, but she went to great lengths to find out why, and
23 didn't give up. So, I felt like this was a person that
24 could really - she is very approachable, I thought, so the
25 public - she would actually go to great lengths to hear from

1 people, her Commissioners, in arriving at the best decision
2 that she could.

3 CHAIR AHMADI: No doubt, she is very successful, and
4 I totally agree with you with her abilities and work habits
5 and work style and the vast level of experience that she has
6 dealing with the legal issues. I wish she was fully
7 available for the Commission's work because that's my main
8 concern about her commitment for the Commission because she
9 has a full-time job. In the interview, we did ask her about
10 her availability and commitment and that was the only major
11 concern that I had when I compared, you know, again, there
12 is no question in terms of qualifications and ability to do
13 the job, she is, in my mind, in my judgment, will be very
14 successful. But I thought that she stated that she has a
15 work schedule that she can adjust, but indicated that she
16 may have a day off here and there, and could use e-mail to
17 conduct the business of the Commission, and to me, when we
18 compare all these wonderful qualified individuals, this
19 limitation on her availability is enough for me to say maybe
20 somebody else in the pool, like I mentioned, Ikari, or I can
21 bring Barabba, for example, which was the next one on my
22 list, to add to the pool. So, unless you convince me, Keri,
23 that she is available, I think, you know, we need to look
24 back at who has the full commitment for the Commission
25 because this is new for California and we don't want to have

1 somebody who may be challenged in terms of, you know, the
2 demand of the job.

3 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I did look into that and I was
4 trying to flesh that out, and when I look back on the
5 record, and her transcript, and her interview, I remember we
6 asked her several times her availability, and in fact, I
7 think I went to great lengths to try to flesh that out
8 myself.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: And I know she had a flexible
11 schedule, she was available on Fridays, and she would do her
12 best to dedicate herself to that, and she had weekends, and
13 she had help from her family. She appeared to be flexible
14 in her schedule, and she had the available - I believe she
15 would be willing to make the time commitment. I didn't get
16 a sense that she wasn't going to be flexible in doing that,
17 and she could travel. I know that she said she makes
18 accommodations for her work, to telecommute, and all that.
19 However, I think it is the Commission's decision how they
20 divvy up the work and who does what because I believe there
21 are certain members of the Commission that aren't going to
22 be retired, that are going to be working full-time. There
23 are those that are going to have to take vacation, but they
24 can't quite their job. And I think the value that this
25 individual could provide as a Commissioner to this new first

1 Commission, I think, would be worth considering further.
2 But I did hear your concerns because I know that was one of
3 mine, also. But I'm willing to hear from you, Mary, to see
4 what you think about that.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I thought she was a good
6 speaker, she really thought on her feet. I agree with Nasir
7 in her availability, but, like Keri said, there are going to
8 be people on this Commission that have jobs, this is
9 supposed to be reflective of California. So, I feel she has
10 the abilities that a Commissioner would need and we can put
11 her on the list and re-look at her again? Would that be
12 amenable to you, Nasir?

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure, let's put her on the list. I
14 will be happy to look back at that and her responses
15 because, you know, I want to make sure that she's available
16 and she's not challenged.

17 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you for your comments, Kerri.

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you, Nasir.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: So the next one I'd like to bring in
21 - was it my turn, Mary?

22 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Go ahead.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. The next
24 individual, and this is the last individual that I had on my
25 list, so if you guys don't have anybody else to bring in,

1 then we'll probably take a break after this one.

2 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: You are at 21 now.

3 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes. Vincent Barabba.

4 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Any time you are ready.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I filed this stuff in my box

7 and I may have misfiled, so that is why -

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No problem.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: That is okay, we have time.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, I'm ready now, thanks.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. So, Mr.

12 Barabba, in my judgment, is an outstanding individual with a

13 wealth of knowledge and applicable experience; for example,

14 being an expert in Census matters, marketing, public

15 speaking, and analysis. So, I believe that Mr. Barabba will

16 be very successful and a complement to the Commission as a

17 whole. He understands the concepts of under-representation

18 and recognizes the importance of the work of the Commission,

19 and he is available to do the work, he is fully committed,

20 he was appointed by several United States, you know, the

21 Administration, so that suggests impartiality and ability to

22 work well with different viewpoints, or people with

23 different viewpoints. So, without hesitation, I would like

24 to have you guys consider, please, Mr. Barabba.

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I actually was going to bring

1 Mr. Barabba.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, I am glad to hear that.

3 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yeah, I felt like he has
4 valuable experience working with the Census Bureau. I know
5 that I was concerned about his connections, too, or
6 political ties to elected officials, given his appointments
7 and who appointed him, who did the appointment. But I felt
8 like we did a good job as panelists in the Bureau fleshing
9 that out. I felt like, although this individual may have
10 had built relationships during his career at the Census
11 Bureau, I felt that his insight on the Census and especially
12 in that 19 -- was it 1980 -- and that controversy, I thought
13 that provided some really unique insight that nobody else
14 may have been able to provide unless they worked on the
15 Census, in this Census, and the challenges that were
16 presented with the under-count, I think, is something that
17 is at the heart of a lot of people when they question the
18 validity of the information that is going to be used for
19 redistricting. So, I felt like this individual, Mr.
20 Barabba, can add considerable value as the Commission does
21 the evaluation of the Census data. But I also found his
22 decision-making skills very effective, also. At first, I
23 was concerned with whether he would be able to listen to
24 other alternatives, but I believe that he is willing to
25 listen, I felt that he was very approachable, very able to

1 communicate with us very well. I mean, we grilled him
2 pretty much on his political connections and I felt like he
3 handled himself very well, in a very professional manner. I
4 think that he is very respectful to others, given his status
5 and his career. I think he would be flexible and willing to
6 hear others' ideas and work well in diverse groups, given
7 his experience here, and with his example with the Corvette,
8 when that first became a project in getting all those groups
9 together and to listen. Mary, what did you think?

10 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: He definitely has all the
11 skills and abilities to be a Commissioner, and my concern is
12 only the political connections and one of the public
13 comments coming from a - I think it was a prior Senator.
14 But, no, I feel that he could do the job and we should
15 definitely include him on the list.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: To make sure that I am clear on your
17 comment about political connection, are you referring to his
18 job in the past being as Census Director, for example, and
19 the two different Administrations? My understanding is that
20 position is non-partisan. And being able to work under two
21 different Administrations, you know, it is one thing to have
22 a working relationship with individuals who are officials at
23 the State or national level, but then to have political - I
24 just want to make sure that I understand your comment, that
25 that is what you are referring to.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Well, it's not just his job,
2 but it's also the Boards that he has held, some of the Board
3 positions, or some of the committees he's been in. But I
4 think we should definitely have him on the list, I don't
5 think he's one that we should consider like Mr. Ikari, but
6 put him on the list.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you. So, at this point,
8 I believe we have 22 individuals on our list?

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I would like to add one other
10 individual.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Please.

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Just let me make one note,
13 though, so I can get my records. I would like to have us
14 also consider Cecilia White.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: I'm ready.

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Ready, Mary.

17 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. I'd like to have put up
18 for discussion Cecelia White. I felt she was very open. She
19 would be able to talk during public meetings and communicate
20 with other individuals, she is from Southern California and
21 brings that perspective in, she is very self-assured, she
22 was very calm, I think she would be able to voice her
23 opinion and not be reserved about voicing that opinion. And
24 she was also the Chair of the Hispanic Internal Revenue
25 Employees Upward Mobility Program, so that really shows that

1 she had an ability to understand diversity, so I would like
2 to just consider her.

3 CHAIR AHMADI: May I go next, Kerri? Are you ready?

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You can go ahead.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, I agree with you in terms of,
6 you know, qualifications and abilities. As I mentioned, you
7 know, before, all of these individuals in our 120 are
8 qualified in many strong ways. When I compare applicant to
9 applicant, I focus more on their commitment, availability,
10 and also from their statements that are in the application
11 material or during the interview to see whether or not
12 there's any concern regarding impartiality or analytical
13 skills. With Ms. White, I had a few concerns about some of
14 the statements that she made, and let me just share that
15 with you. And, again, this is just my judgment and I know
16 that this is subjective and I will be willing to go back and
17 look at it again, but just to share with you, I was not
18 convinced that that she has a fundamental understanding of
19 the purpose of the Voters FIRST Act or redistricting. She
20 made some statements of her opinion as if it was fact. And
21 also, for example, I'm just quoting one statement from her
22 interview, she said that she can't imagine 14 Commissioners
23 traveling all over the State and we cannot afford that, and
24 she also said something about the main problem for the state
25 is - and I'm just paraphrasing - is the Budget and the

1 pensions. So, if I just go back to some of the statements,
2 these are just examples. So, collectively, when I look back
3 at those statements and the concerns that the individual
4 has, you know, and the way they see the Commission
5 objectives, I wasn't convinced that she fully understands
6 the fundamentals of the Commission's purpose and the mission
7 and objective; otherwise, you know, as I mentioned before,
8 there is no doubt that she has a very successful experience,
9 work experience and life experience. Let me see, yeah, in
10 my judgment, I found her - she provided lots of details, but
11 some of which was, in my judgment, not relevant to the
12 Commission's work, or the questions that I asked. And,
13 again, pensions was one of those examples. So, she didn't
14 give me the impression that she would be a successful
15 Commissioner, and that was the basis for my decision at this
16 point, but I will be willing to put her back on our list and
17 look back at the application, and come back and discuss if
18 you still insist.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, well, let's hear from
20 Kerri.

21 CHAIR AHMADI: Please.

22 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You know, I have to say, Mary,
23 I have reservations about this candidate and I didn't
24 believe she had the depth of responses that showed her
25 understanding and responsibilities for complex Commission

1 work. And, in addition, her response to - I don't remember
2 who asked her -- about political preferences among the
3 under-represented, I didn't believe that it was effectively
4 articulated or communicated to us. In some ways, I question
5 the approachability and maybe the flexibility of this
6 individual, also. These are just things that were of
7 concern to me, as well.

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: So, with that, is there anybody else
10 that you guys want to add to the list, to the tentative
11 list? Maybe at this point, we can just read the names of
12 those that we have added to the list. Based on my count, we
13 have -

14 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Twenty-three total.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: -- six individuals that we added.

16 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Twenty-three total. You
17 added David Ikari - I'm not going in order because that
18 "table" thing really threw me - Larry Kerr, Roy Salume,
19 Peter Yao, Peggy Huang, Vincent Barabba, and Cecilia White.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: That agrees with my list. So,
21 panelists, how about if we take a break?

22 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Well, what I would suggest is,
23 if we could maybe add names to the other two pools and then
24 take a break at that time --

25 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I would jump in here. I

1 think a stretch break is a good idea, I know I need one, but
2 I agree with you, Ms. Camacho, that 10 or 15 minutes to
3 stretch and get a drink of water, that sort of thing, but
4 then I think it is a good idea, as you suggested, to maybe
5 come back and talk about who you would like to add to your
6 other groups so that, when you do take a break, it is
7 substantial enough to not only look at each sub pool, but
8 look at the group as a whole.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Correct.

10 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: So, I think there is wisdom
11 in that, but I do need a stretch break, I am sorry.

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

13 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Can I get a clarification for a
14 minute. Why are we reviewing her?

15 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: She is on the list of
16 Reviewees.

17 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Can you go over the re-review
18 again so I can get it straight in my mind?

19 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Sure. David Ikari, I know
20 I'm out of order, that is why you're confused, Larry Kerr,
21 Roy Salume, Peter Yao, Peggy Huang, Vincent Barabba, and
22 Cecilia White.

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, thanks.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: So, at this point, I believe we can
25 take a 20-minute break and be back at 11:00.

1 (Off the record at 10:39 A.M.)

2 (Back on the record at 11:01 A.M.)

3 CHAIR AHMADI: It's 11:01 again and we are back on
4 the record. So, before the meeting, we added individuals to
5 our Republican pile and now we are going to focus -

6 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Before the recess. We
7 didn't do anything before the meeting.

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much, I'm a little
9 nervous, sorry about that. Before the recess, we added
10 individuals to our Tentative List of Republicans and now I
11 suggest that we focus on our Other List of individuals who
12 are not affiliated with either Republican or Democratic
13 Parties. So, Mary and Kerri, do you guys have anybody to
14 bring forward for discussion?

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes, I do. Let me get - so
16 we're doing Other, right?

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes.

18 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, thanks. I would like
19 to bring for the discussion Michelle - sorry, Michelle, I
20 know you gave us a little card, thank you so much -

21 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: DiGuilio-Matz.

22 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: -- thank you - DiGuilio-Matz.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: And I am ready because she was one
24 of those that I wanted to bring forward.

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, Mary.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, thank you. Ms.

2 DiGuilio - right?

3 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: DiGuilio-Matz.

4 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: DiGuilio-Matz, she was very
5 calm, she was, I felt, very easy to talk to during the
6 meeting, she was composed, she thought on her feet very
7 well, she could work on a team, she is from the Southern
8 Central Valley, which currently we have no representation
9 there in this group. She also lived in San Diego for a
10 while, while she was obtaining her undergraduate degree, so
11 she kind of has a little bit of perspective for Southern
12 California. She also has a Masters in Community Planning.
13 She has been a media spokesperson. She worked and she is
14 also sometimes a stay-at-home mom, depending on the need, so
15 she has that perspective. I think she would be able to
16 relate to a lot of individuals during public meetings, be
17 able to solicit information because she was so easy to talk
18 to, and with her work experience, I think that would help
19 with her analytical abilities that she was able to
20 demonstrate.

21 CHAIR AHMADI: I agree. And as I mentioned, she
22 was one of the individuals that I wanted to bring forward
23 for discussion. And I agree with your comments, but also I
24 wanted to mention that she has significant community and
25 nonprofit experience, and I was really impressed with her

1 involvement with the Stockton Speaks project, that told me a
2 lot about her abilities, and ability to connect with
3 different people for a common goal, and no doubt that she
4 will be successful on the Commission. So I agree that we
5 should add her back to our list.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: This is a candidate that I
7 was going to bring up for further discussion also, Mary and
8 Nasir. I was also impressed by her Stockton Speaks Project.
9 I felt that her addressing the under-served population and
10 under-deserved population was very insightful and very
11 relevant to the work of the Commission and their efforts to
12 reach out to those under-served populations. I also felt
13 like she had a good understanding of the redistricting work
14 and the obligations and responsibilities. I felt like she
15 understands the different types of data that may be used or
16 - and gave some suggestions or some insight on what she
17 thought was going to be useful. She felt it was very
18 important to stick to timelines and have milestones, and I
19 thought that was critical, and I believe she had the ability
20 to be impartial in her responses in the interview, as well.
21 I think she understands the criteria and understands there
22 is going to be difficulties and ambiguities associated with
23 that. I felt she could be fair and respectful to - and
24 respect others, as well as the fellow Commissioners. I felt
25 she was approachable and flexible in her decision-making,

1 since she described Stockton Works and other grant projects.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. So
3 obviously we have agreed on this individual, so she is going
4 to be added to our list. The next individual, Mary, Kerri?
5 Do you have anybody else that you want to bring forward?

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Can we bring up for
7 discussion Patrick Perez?

8 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Just a moment. Okay.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Ready?

11 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yeah.

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Mr. Perez is from the Bay
13 Area, San Mateo County. I found this applicant provided
14 good detailed responses, he believes in good rigorous
15 project management philosophy, he is serious, I thought,
16 about Commission work. He knew the issues in establishing
17 communities of interest. I believe he studied the laws well
18 in preparation for the interview. I particularly enjoyed
19 his response to the White House award that I asked him about
20 how he got it because I thought that demonstrated his
21 ability at the last minute to make a tough decision, put a
22 good group together, and to meet the objectives that were
23 very critical, a security breach at the national level, the
24 Presidency level, is very - and for him to remain calm, I
25 felt like for him to put a good team together, he must have

1 been well-respected by his colleagues. And I felt like he
2 showed a passion for the Commission's work, also. I felt
3 like he could most likely be a good facilitator in his
4 examples he provided to us, and nothing would prohibit him
5 from clearly working and dedicating his time to the
6 Commission's work. And he respects the law, also.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah. All of the above because he
8 was one of the individuals that I wanted to bring forward
9 for inclusion. And I am glad to hear that you agree with me
10 on that. No doubt. In my mind, he would be a positive
11 presence on the Commission, so I would like to vote for him.

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I had some concerns about
13 this individual. I didn't feel he really demonstrated or
14 presented a good understanding of California diverse
15 demographic in geography. He didn't really have that much
16 interaction with the underrepresented, all of the outreach
17 that he did do, which he discussed, I think it was the -
18 being out in the - I think it was the one park and the
19 public speaking, that was during his high school years. He
20 also talked about being in - working on the budget, the
21 school budget, that was also when he was in high school,
22 which is very commendable, and the work that he was able to
23 do. However, I felt that his answers were very high level
24 and he didn't really get into the specifics. Nice demeanor,
25 very calm, spoke really well. He's another individual from

1 the Bay Area, and we do have a lot of representation from
2 the Bay Area in this group, so I'd like to put him on a list
3 to discuss.

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: To re-review?

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: To re-review.

6 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay.

7 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So to re-review, okay?

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Can I add a comment about your
9 concerns, Mary? You know, no doubt that he has shared with
10 us some of his experience from the years that he was in high
11 school, but looking back at his age, for example, you know,
12 there is certain limitation in terms of how much time has he
13 been in the employment area -

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Which has been over 12 years,
15 I think it was.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah. So I agree that we can - I
17 will look back at the application material in his response
18 to the questions.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Thank you.

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I do want to say something.
21 And his volunteer program at the Henry Coe Park, he did
22 mention that he was in a training program, interacted with
23 the public, and giving it encompassed how to answer people's
24 questions and basic visitor interpretation, which might be
25 teaching somebody what a particular type of flower is, or

1 what type of Oak tree was, he thought most importantly it
2 was educating the public in such a way that would calm their
3 fears and reduce potential hazards of park dangers. And I
4 think he was charged with the task of instilling
5 appreciation for the environment in the public in such a way
6 that, given the vested interest in conservation, I think,
7 even though, in my view, that this applicant may have not
8 conducted a lot of outreach during his career, and maybe his
9 personal life, that he may have the ability to do so. I
10 didn't see anything in his interview or application that did
11 not demonstrate that, so I just wanted to share that with
12 you.

13 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

14 CHAIR AHMADI: I agree. Thank you. I believe it
15 is my turn now?

16 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yeah.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, I would like to bring Mr.
18 Stanley Forbes for discussion.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, I have my documents.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Uh huh, me too.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. So, Mr. Forbes received
23 a favorable vote from all of us all along, and that speaks
24 volumes about the material in his application. And when I
25 look at the interview discussions that we had, it further

1 substantiated the fact that, in my mind, he is going to be a
2 successful Commissioner. He has a clear understanding of
3 the need to engage to underrepresented, he is not worried
4 about the people who already vote. He has good ideas for
5 reaching out to reluctant public, to ensure that the
6 Commission has their input in a very efficient way. He is
7 experienced in public interaction, discussions, opposing
8 views, controversial issues, he gave us examples about the
9 school board, the City Council, and you know, overall his
10 great attitude and positive demeanor convinced me that he's
11 going to be very successful on the Commission. So I would
12 like to have you guys consider him, please.

13 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Well, I have concerns about
14 this candidate, although I did observe certain things that
15 you did say about this candidate. And, Mary, did you want
16 to go next? I just kind of chimed in.

17 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No, go ahead, that's fine, go
18 ahead.

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: In reviewing this candidate,
20 and seeing his interview, particularly, it looked like his
21 strategies with conflict resolution were focused on getting
22 his way. And his examples, without details, give us a
23 perspective that I saw this did no collaboration, I thought
24 it was described, he had a patronizing view of the Davis
25 population who was non-White and high achieving. He's

1 curious about the cultures, it does not equal appreciation
2 to diversity in what I interpreted in his response. I
3 thought he had a patronizing attitude towards immigrants.

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Why?

5 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: In his application, he
6 mentioned about he believes California in our nation is the
7 most diverse state where there is every reason to believe
8 that the diversity will only increase, given immigration and
9 the higher birth rate of our new residents. And I know he
10 responded to this statement, but I still felt that I believe
11 that certain groups could interpret that the wrong way. I
12 thought his - in regards to the traffic analysis, he made a
13 statement about permanent enemies, about other people on his
14 - his group. And the relationships, you know, I don't know.
15 He seemed to portray in the traffic analysis the City
16 Manager doesn't seem like - with the staff, especially, that
17 he respected the staff and says that his analysis is clearly
18 wrong. I'm not sure if he will have patience for the
19 process. Those are my observations and my concerns. Mary,
20 what did you think?

21 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I thought this individual has
22 a lot of skills and abilities, he knows about communities of
23 interest, he understands the needs of the State, he is
24 articulate, he has Board experience, he is very diplomatic
25 when he is talking. I thought it did not show a good team

1 mentality when he was talking about the issue that he noted
2 during the traffic report that he received, but I think he
3 has to be consensus oriented because he was in these various
4 Boards. And then, he also brings a small business aspect.
5 So, I wouldn't mind looking at Kerri's concerns and put him
6 in like a reconsider or re-review list.

7 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Well, just put him on the
8 list.

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Put him on the list.

10 CHAIR AHMADI: Knowing that we're going to look
11 back at that -

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Correct, look back at them,
13 yes.

14 CHAIR AHMADI: -- and come back and possibly
15 discuss the details again.

16 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: I am okay with that. I don't mind
18 looking back, just to make sure. Thank you so much. Mary,
19 do you have anybody else that you want to bring forward?

20 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, my turn. Yes. Velveth
21 Schmitz.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: I'm ready.

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I'm ready, Mary.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. When she interviewed,
25 she was very articulate. She was very comfortable talking

1 to people. She was very at ease while she was talking to
2 us, and I think that this would be a benefit when she goes
3 and talks to the - during public meetings. Also, she thinks
4 before she talks, which I thought was very commendable
5 because sometimes I don't do that! She's open, she's very
6 self-confident, and so I know that, during any Commissioner
7 meetings that would occur, that she would speak up. She is
8 from the Southern Coastal Area, and she has various
9 experiences being - I think it is a stay-at-home mom - and
10 that kind of gives a different perspective. She studied
11 redistricting at U.C. Berkeley under a noted expert, so that
12 kind of gave her a little bit of insight into that. She
13 also has some Board experience on the City of Parks and
14 Activities Commission. So I would like to put her on the
15 list for reconsideration.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: This individual was another one on
17 my list to bring forward and I agree with everything you
18 said. I would be happy to bring her back in for discussion.

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Actually, yes, I was going to
20 bring Velveth up. But I'm not sure who to bring up next.
21 Thank you, Mary. But I did find her responses very well,
22 she is very poised, very comfortable speaking to us for the
23 first time, never met us. I believe this candidate can
24 handle very stressful situations. She was confident, like
25 you said. I believe she could work well with groups and

1 collaborate for the good of the common goal. She is aware
2 of the Commission's work, the Constitution and the laws,
3 also, and based on what she learned in her class. Her
4 community involvement was a plus to me, like you said, Mary.
5 Her class project, I thought, was interesting, and how her
6 instructor made her go out and come in, kind of get an idea,
7 "Why don't you vote?" You know, and really probe the public
8 to get an understanding of why it's so important, to find
9 out why and get them interested. I mean, she had a good
10 understanding of the complex redistricting work and is able
11 to travel, so I did really like this candidate.

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: There is one other thing I
13 wanted to bring up and I forgot. She was raised in the - I
14 think it is the Southern Central Area, I think it was like
15 the Fresno area, I don't know, but I know she had that
16 familiarity in that geographic area.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Correct, I agree. So it sounds
18 like we are in agreement on this individual to be placed on
19 our tentative list of 20. Thank you so much. Kerri, do you
20 have anybody else?

21 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: You are at a total of 19
22 right now.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yeah.

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I'm going to bring up for

1 discussion further Stephen Allen.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

3 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Just a minute, please.

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I am ready now.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: This candidate, I believe,
7 could bring to the Commission a unique perspective and
8 experience. He represents a Central Valley Mountain Region,
9 Plumas County. And he has been involved in the
10 redistricting of the Board of Supervisorial Districts three
11 times in Plumas County and it appeared to me that his
12 confidence grew more and more with each redistricting effort
13 and his knowledge grew more and more, which I thought would
14 be particularly useful in the State's redistricting. I
15 thought he represented a typical person from Plumas County,
16 and I think people would be welcoming to his personality.
17 He was humorous at one point and I don't think we all got
18 it. But, I mean, I think he was - if he didn't know
19 something, he would tell you, and he said that, don't
20 pretend that you know if you don't know. And he has no
21 formal education, but I still felt like he would add this
22 whole other perspective to the Commission that I do not
23 think we have seen yet. He understands fully the work of
24 the Commission. I felt like he was a good listener. And,
25 you know, when we asked him about how he could apply his

1 redistricting experience to the State's redistricting
2 effort, and he didn't just come out and say, "I've done it."
3 He actually said there could be differences. And he
4 recognizes that. He recognizes the complexity. He
5 understands equal population. What were your thoughts on
6 this candidate?

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Well, may I start, Mary?

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No, go ahead.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. I came to this meeting with
10 having an unfavorable vote for this individual because my
11 judgment of some of his statements, or in my assessment of
12 some of the statements, were somewhat towards the negative
13 in terms of, you know, how he thinks the Commission will be
14 or will not be successful. And I say this because he
15 expressed several times a concern about completing the job
16 in the allotted time, so he is not optimistic about, you
17 know, the Commission being able to do its job by the
18 deadline. And I can see that you can take that statement
19 either way, saying that he is very cautious about the fact
20 that there is a tight deadline, but my take on that
21 statement was that, since he repeated it several times - by
22 the way, this was my main concern, that's why I had the
23 unfavorable vote. I agree with everything else you said,
24 Kerri, that he has been successful given that he had limited
25 resources from the beginning. But overall, he suggested,

1 for example, to compensate or mitigate the fact that the
2 time is not enough for the Commission to do its work, he
3 suggested - I think he was very strong on having regional
4 meetings and not going to every place where the Commission
5 will decide to go, or need to go, so.... He did not emphasize
6 the need for the Commission to reach out to all these
7 communities and hear from the, you know, areas that may not
8 be in terms of time efficiency, it may not be efficient to
9 reach out. So, I had some concern about his strong opinions
10 about how to mitigate that deadline, for example, in
11 reaching out to the people. So, that having said, you know,
12 I will be glad to look back at some of his statements and
13 see if my interpretation can be changed.

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Mr. Allen, I have to agree
15 with both of you, he does have prior redistricting
16 experience, he understands the legal requirement, he -
17 however, I am not sure of his ability to interact
18 effectively within public meetings. His demeanor was very
19 serious. I didn't feel he - he's a very nice individual,
20 but he's a very serious individual. Also, I'm unsure if he
21 really would understand the urban area concern since most of
22 his life has been lived - he has lived in - is the rural
23 areas. So, I definitely think we should put him on the list
24 and reevaluate him, and I can take a look at his interview
25 again. Okay?

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Unless Kerri agrees with you and I.

2 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I hear you. You know, I do
3 remember him saying, you know, that he lived in Plumas for
4 quite a long time and that is his home, but I do believe he
5 did say he did work at the Department of Finance where he
6 comes to this Bay Area, he has got relatives in the Bay - I
7 don't think he's totally oblivious, I think he could maybe
8 integrate himself somehow, and I did look at his - I looked
9 at his interview again, as I did have concerns at first, and
10 I felt like he can add a whole other perspective that I
11 haven't seen yet in a Commissioner. I know he acknowledges
12 the time commitment, he probably, like you said, is not
13 optimistic, but maybe because of his experiences in doing
14 redistricting at the supervisory level, I think maybe he
15 knows it is so demanding, there are so many mitigating
16 factors, there are different laws to apply, and layers of
17 information to consider, in addition to public input. I
18 think he may have a realistic view. But I hear you that you
19 may think that he may not be approachable in certain areas,
20 but there are 14 members to this Commission, and I think he
21 may have a good understanding up there, but I am willing to
22 re-review him.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. So we are going to put him
25 on the list.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I - is it my turn?

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Go ahead, Mary.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, okay. I would like to

6 consider Teresa Espana.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Go, Mary.

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. I think that Ms.

10 Espana is very calm. She would be able to interact with the

11 individuals during public meetings and during the

12 Commission. She has a very interesting voice tone and

13 demeanor, which might rub some people the wrong way,

14 however, when you read her transcripts, she's very

15 intelligent, she answers the questions, she is thoughtful,

16 she is fair-minded, she is truly conscious of the areas and

17 commitment that is needed. She is a very positive

18 individual. She has worked on numerous nonprofit works,

19 which would help understand that. She also currently lives

20 in the Southern Central Valley, and she also went to school

21 and lived in the Santa Barbara area for 10 years, so I think

22 - or, I'd like to have you consider her to include on the

23 list.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: Kerri, do you want to go next?

25 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Oh, okay. I go back and

1 forth on this candidate because I wasn't sure how she would,
2 when you look at the Commission as a whole, interact. I
3 think she could interact well with the Commission, I'm not
4 sure how they would welcome her. I looked at her several
5 times. And I found a lot of value in how she responded
6 compared to some other candidates who completely could not
7 focus on the questions, and I thought she answered the
8 questions solid and well. I didn't see any bias in her
9 responses. I know that the ARP Information Report may have
10 said some things and opinions that she may have publicly
11 stated, I was a little concerned about that, but I did not
12 see that and evidence that in her written application and in
13 her interview. She - I can see her - she was very
14 passionate about her work, about her education that she
15 teaches about the political preferences of the under-served,
16 about the political process itself. And she understands the
17 importance of the Commission's work. I think she would be a
18 committed Commissioner. I think she does have the
19 availability. She has, like you said, the San Joaquin-Santa
20 Barbara perspective. She - I lost my train of thought,
21 sorry. I think she could work collaboratively in a group,
22 she is on various Boards and Commissions, and if she is
23 successful at that, like she says she is, then I think she
24 could effectively work on this Commission, it is brand new,
25 I think she won't have a problem doing so. I think she's

1 not afraid to voice her opinion, but not impose it on others
2 and willing to listen to others in arriving at consensus and
3 a common goal. Nasir, your thoughts?

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. I will have to look
5 back at the details, based on what I'm hearing from you,
6 that there are some areas that I want to look back at
7 because I thought that, you know, as you suggested, Kerri,
8 based on some of the comments that she made in response to
9 the reporters, which is not reflected in the application
10 material, I value that information with the same weight
11 because, you know, it is the purpose of the information that
12 was shared with us to help us better understand who these
13 individuals are, so I was a little concerned about those
14 comments because that tells a lot about, you know, how they
15 think, not that I'm saying that that's a bad thing, but when
16 you consider all the facts about impartiality and thought
17 process, it made me think about collectively with the
18 responses to the interview questions, that overall I found
19 her - I'm not convinced that she will interact well with
20 people on the Commission and be able to share information
21 and understand and consider, or differentiate, you know,
22 facts from opinions, without having - well, I have to look
23 back at that aspect of the qualifications. But when I came
24 to this meeting with an unfavorable vote for this
25 individual, the major concern that I had was, as I

1 mentioned, you know, her comments. But also, generally, she
2 did not - she was not able to convince me that she has a
3 solid understanding of the purpose of the Commission, or the
4 Commission's work, so the scope of the job and ability to
5 respond to the specific questions concerned me a little bit.
6 But I will look back at this application and share my
7 thoughts if -

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I had to take a look at her -
9 the news articles because, as you know, they could have been
10 taken out of context, and I know I - some of the things
11 we've said have been taken out of context also, so I kind of
12 looked at that, that way.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay.

14 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: And I just want to say that I
15 had to take a step back because, as we get these information
16 reports, they do present a lot of opinions that have been
17 stated by these Applicants, whether it is political, or
18 something else, and you know, I think that some of these
19 people that applied truly believe in a fair political
20 process, and I think they do have strong opinions because
21 they believe in a fair political process, so, when I looked
22 at the Regs., I always keep in mind, it says, "Although an
23 Applicant may have strong views and may have participated in
24 social and political causes, the Applicant has the capacity
25 and willingness while serving as a member of the Commission

1 to set aside his or her personal views and all of the
2 following considerations in order to evaluate information
3 with an open mind and make decisions that are fair for
4 everyone affected, including, but not limited to, the
5 establishment of the Legislature and the State Board of
6 Equalization Districts that are in compliance with the U.S.
7 Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and the criteria set
8 forth in further regulation." And the go on to list:
9 "personal interests, biases for any individual or group,"
10 and I just want to say that I didn't see in the responses,
11 in the Applicant's, and just by my individual review of the
12 materials, in all the applicants' materials and their
13 interview, that it's difficult to kind of draw that fine
14 line to see based on what we are given. We are only given a
15 certain extent of information. The Bureau only has a
16 certain limited time to give this information to us, and we
17 have to make the decisions by a deadline that is not
18 forgiving, and will not change. So, based on the
19 information that we give, and I know - I'm not just saying
20 this about this candidate - in all candidates, as I evaluate
21 them, but I think partiality is a critical component for
22 redistricting in the decision-making, and I know it's
23 difficult to decide for how strong their opinions are and
24 how they're going to be able to set it aside, but in my
25 view, in my own analysis and of her interview, and things, I

1 didn't really see the tendency for her to do that; either
2 that, or she hid it very well. But, I mean, it is a
3 difficult judgment. So I acknowledge your difficulty in
4 seeing that also.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. So, are we
6 going to -

7 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Since we're at six, do you
8 want to add any additional individuals? Or do you - since
9 we're at 21 total, sorry - are you going to do that? I'm
10 only taking over his job, I'm sorry.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: No, that's okay.

12 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Is it because he got to be
13 Chair two times in a row?

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes, I'm jealous!

15 CHAIR AHMADI: I had one more individual that I
16 wanted to bring for discussion and, after that, I don't have
17 anybody else to bring in on my list. So, this individual is
18 James Aldredge.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Any time you're ready for me
20 to start. Are you ready?

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yes, I'm ready, thank you.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, so James Aldredge, he's from
23 South Central Valley Mountain. Initially, I was on the
24 fence. Looking back at his qualifications and the
25 interview, information that we gathered in the interview, I

1 believe he brings a unique value to the Commission. He has
2 been involved with the community, and he has a long history
3 of local service with the Fresno Human Resources and
4 overall, I thought he will bring the type of values that I
5 didn't see in other individuals in the pile that I had voted
6 on. So, if you guys agree with me, we can add him to the
7 list and look back if you guys can look back at his
8 application.

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with you, Nasir. He
10 definitely has good skills and abilities, however, I'm
11 unsure about his computer skills. Also, when we were asking
12 him questions during the interview, he had a wandering
13 narrative, so it was hard for me to really grasp his answer
14 out of all the information that he did provide, and I am
15 unsure if that would be the same at public meetings and
16 during Commission work, when he is working with the
17 Commission and at Commission meetings.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you. Kerri, do you
19 have any comments on him?

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yes. I'm trying to see where
21 to start, sorry. He had a very casual way of speaking to us
22 and I think that's his approach, in addressing others in a
23 group and in the public, as well. And I think people can
24 say that, I guess, as you watch the interview, he may have -
25 a lot of our Applicants, actually, had a hard time kind of

1 focusing on some of the questions and answers because I
2 think they're really trying truly hard to figure out what
3 kind of experience, or what type of information do I need to
4 provide the Panel members that would best inform them to
5 evaluate us. And I think he has so much experience at the
6 local level in the Fresno County area that I think it was
7 hard for him to gather all of his thoughts and maybe tell
8 us, and I know other Commissioners - Applicants - may have
9 done a better job at doing that. But I think that Espana
10 may have appeared like that, also, where she may have been
11 trying to think about where she needed to draw her
12 information. And I think that he had - and despite all of
13 that, I think he still would be able to meet all his
14 obligations as a Commissioner. I thought he had a lot of
15 value to add based on his local level experience. The one
16 thing I think that did concern me was the ARP Information
17 Report that we received recently, he was supposed to amend
18 his Form and I think it did come in -

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes, it did.

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: But, you know, and then maybe
21 I'm making too much of a big deal of it, but it goes to the
22 transparency issue with me, and the ability to just, okay,
23 when the Bureau asks applicants to provide additional
24 information to clarify certain things, they do it
25 immediately, they have no problem. I don't believe this

1 applicant may have had a problem, but I am concerned, his
2 ability to maybe meet his obligation in providing the public
3 everything that they need to know about this applicant. I
4 mean, to me, it kind of can create an appearance that he may
5 not be willing to be forthcoming and transparent in that
6 manner, but he did provide it to us, it did come to us.
7 Those are some of my concerns.

8 CHAIR AHMADI: No, I totally agree and I saw that,
9 you know, lack of providing information, and that is
10 important, don't take me wrong. But, again, as Mary
11 suggested, you know, his ability to use computers, I thought
12 maybe he has technical difficulty to provide - but that
13 having said, I totally agree with you that that is
14 important, and for that reason, I changed my - well, not
15 just for that reason, but now that I hear from you and I
16 look back at the details of my notes, I am willing to take
17 him back. Is that okay, Stephanie?

18 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Well, it is up to your
19 panelists, but I mean, this is a deliberation, so if what
20 you are saying is you would like to withdraw the
21 recommendation and take him off the list, that is fine.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: Correct.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I am comfortable with that.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: Are you okay with that, Mary?

25 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes, I'm comfortable with

1 that.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, Kerri. I appreciate

3 your comments.

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: How many do we have so far?

6 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Twenty-one.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Twenty-one. Maybe, unless you guys

8 have anybody else to add, as I mentioned, I don't have

9 anyone else to add to the list.

10 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I don't have anyone else,

11 either.

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Do you have anyone, Kerri?

13 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I do, but I don't know if

14 you're going to agree with me.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Let's hear it. I agreed with you

16 with the last one.

17 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I may have to talk this one

18 out and, you know, there are so many people to think about,

19 and as I think about who I want to bring up, I mean, I look

20 at a lot of things. And this individual, I found very

21 interesting. He is an -

22 CHAIR AHMADI: What is his name?

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Oh, I am sorry - sorry, I

24 went ahead - Robert Panerio.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: Robert Panerio.

1 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I know who I want to talk
2 about.

3 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, I know you're anxious, that's
4 okay.

5 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Ms. Spano, could I ask you
6 to just drop your mic down - yes, because when you look down
7 to talk, we lose you.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Really?

9 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I lose you.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Oh, okay. Is that better?

11 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Much.

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Really? Okay.

13 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: You'll have to remember if
14 you look up! You might bring it up just a hair, there,
15 that's much better, I'm sorry.

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: That's okay, I just did it
17 myself early on when nobody was in here, so that's what I
18 get. And you can let me know when you're ready.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I thought this applicant
21 would be worth discussing. I thought that his responses
22 were well constructed and I thought he could give a
23 different perspective, he is from the Bay Area, I believe
24 Solano, and he used to be a sales engineer also, so I
25 believe he can interact with others well and particularly

1 with Commission members. I think he can work with diverse
2 groups very well, also, and as a Vacaville Environmental
3 Compliance Inspector, he believes in - and Hazards -
4 consensus and the benefit of reaching a common goal. He
5 would be - I know that those - you, Mary, may have had some
6 concern about his availability -

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: -- he did say he would work
9 nights and weekends, and I think that, as we discussed with
10 him further, he showed a willingness to be available for the
11 Commission's work. I didn't get a sense that he wouldn't.
12 He did say that he would be - he does have a full-time job,
13 he can't give it up. And I remember when we were discussing
14 the qualities in a Commissioner last Monday, that we should
15 just give some thought to people that have full-time jobs
16 and still want to devote their time to the redistricting
17 effort because it is not up to us to make that decision on
18 whether the Commission's work is going to take 80 hours, or
19 if it is going to be part-time at some times, I don't know.
20 I know it will be demanding work, but he said he would be
21 willing to put the time in and be available. And in
22 addition to his working with the group, I think, like I
23 said, I think he is effective at working with the public
24 also. Let's see, and, I mean, he handled - he seems to
25 respect the laws and I just thought he would be an Applicant

1 that would be worth reconsidering.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah, no doubt, Kerri, that he is a
3 very successful individual, and again, just looking at his
4 qualifications and abilities, I totally agree with you that
5 he might be able to - I mean, based on my judgment, he will
6 be able to do the job. But I am still seriously concerned
7 about his availability to do the job because, if you recall
8 from the interview, he said that he does not know if he can
9 quit his job, the City job. He is having a full-time job
10 from 8:00 to 4:30, and even though, as you suggested, the
11 Commission will determine how much time will be necessary
12 from each Commissioner, and there may be some flexibility,
13 but I'm not in a position to take that risk and say that,
14 you know, maybe he is not needed during the week days. As
15 you know, individuals or Commissioners will have to reach
16 out to the different areas of the State and that includes
17 travel time, for example, if you want to have a few
18 Commissioners go down south to meet with a group of people,
19 we should consider the hardship that it will cost each
20 member of the Commission who may also have to handle a full-
21 time job and other responsibilities that they may have. So,
22 that was the main concern that I had, given the fact that he
23 has a full-time job and he's not - he doesn't know whether
24 or not he will be able to take a leave of absence, or quit
25 his job, or I don't know if he will be able to do that based

1 on his statements. So, for that reason, I wanted to bring
2 somebody else instead of him.

3 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Well, may I go back to the
4 record, since I have the transcript on this gentleman?

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: He did say towards the end of
7 his interview, and we did ask him about his willingness to
8 commit more, and he said sure, he could take vacation. And
9 I thought that showed a willingness to be flexible with his
10 time, so I didn't think he was totally inflexible and not
11 aware of that. So, I just wanted to bring that up.

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Well, he said in response -

13 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Can I give my comment?

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure, I am sorry.

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, thanks. I thought Mr.
16 Panerio was very calm, he has a very serious demeanor. He
17 would definitely follow the law, he truly believes in
18 following the law. He focuses our discussions and his
19 examples were definitely focused on corrective action and
20 discipline, and he did not appear to be very flexible. I
21 had concerns with him being able to work in a group with the
22 Commissioner because of those -- demeanor that he had.
23 Also, when asked about his appreciation for the under-
24 represented, I noted that he gave an example, I think it
25 might have been his military for a little bit, but it wasn't

1 really much, but what I really remember is he really has no
2 community involvement. He does help mentor his son's
3 friend, but he doesn't really go out and help the under-
4 represented. So, he's definitely a very knowledgeable
5 individual, we could reconsider him, but I don't know if he
6 would be a good fit for the Commission.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: I agree with you, Mary. And also,
8 Kerri, since you mentioned that you were reading something
9 off of the transcript, I don't have the transcript with me,
10 but I have my notes, so please correct me. And, again, this
11 was the main reason in my judgment. I believe, in response
12 to the question when we asked how would you balance
13 commitments, he said that is he to stop the business, "I
14 have a job, gotta make a living, I don't think anyone knows
15 how much time this is going to take," and then he said,
16 that's his words, "I know I work 8:00 to 4:30. After 4:30
17 and on the weekends, I would be doing the Commission's
18 work." Now, that is based on my notes. Of course, if I'm
19 wrong, please correct me, but that was something that causes
20 concern about whether or not the Commission's work will pose
21 a significant challenge for the individual and, as a result,
22 cause him not to be able to give their full attention to the
23 Commission's work, or the attention that it needs to have.

24 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: How did you feel about his
25 ability to work with other Commissioners? Did you find that

1 he was really rigid in his personality? Or did you find
2 that he could work well with others?

3 CHAIR AHMADI: Based on my notes and, of course,
4 that's difficult to remember all the details, but based on
5 my notes, that was not a concern for me. But I will be
6 happy to look back at the details.

7 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I was only asking because
8 Mary thought that was a concern, right? And I know you
9 didn't comment on that, but I didn't see that. But I'm
10 willing to go look at his information and re-review it.

11 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So we are going to keep him
12 on the list? Is that agreed? Okay.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, so now we have, I believe 22
14 individuals on the list?

15 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Correct.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: I don't have anybody else to add to
17 the list. Do you guys have anyone else to add?

18 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No.

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: No.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: No? Okay. So it sounds like at
21 this point, are we going to read the names of those that we
22 added to the list?

23 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Michelle Diguilio-Matz,
24 Patrick Perez, Stanley Forbes, Velveth Schmitz, Stephen
25 Allen, Teresa Espana, and Robert Panerio.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. That agrees
2 with my list. I look at the clock and it's like - it's
3 almost 12:00. Maybe this is a good time for us to take a
4 quick lunch break?

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I was thinking maybe if we
6 could go over the Democrats and then maybe take a break
7 after that, because I'm thinking it might be another hour,
8 what do you think?

9 CHAIR AHMADI: I need a comfort break, so it would
10 help me - if we want to combine our comfort break with, you
11 know, lunch break, we can take a 45-minute lunch break,
12 maybe, or half an hour?

13 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Would that be okay?

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: That sounds good.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Are you okay with that?

18 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yeah, I just need to get some
19 water.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: Let's reconvene at 12:30. Thank
21 you so much.

22 (Off the record at 12:00 p.m.)

23 (Back on the record at 12:30 p.m.)

24 CHAIR AHMADI: The hour being 12:32, we are back
25 on the record. So, before our lunch break, we discussed the

1 Other group, and I believe now it is time to move on to our
2 last group, which is the Democratic party, and in this
3 party, I believe we had 13 Democrats who received favorable
4 yes votes from all of us, so we need at least seven more to
5 add to the pile. And I have certain individuals listed in
6 my list here that I would like to bring in, but, Mary and
7 Kerri, would you like to start, please?

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes.

9 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

10 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, did you want to go first?
11 No, go ahead, Kerri.

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: That's fine, no, you can go
13 first. I think I went first last time.

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. I would like to
15 discuss Tangerine Brigham.

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I was going to do that one,
17 Mary.

18 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, okay. Well, then, here,
19 why don't you talk?

20 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

21 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, sorry, I'm a little slow.
22 I can say the name real quick.

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I am ready, sorry.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Ms. Brigham is an individual
25 I think that would be able to put in the Commission and she

1 would work effectively with other individuals, she is very
2 dedicated to consensus building. She was easy to listen to
3 during the interview, very pleasant demeanor, she smiled,
4 was engaging, so I think that would be beneficial also for a
5 Commissioner during Commissioner meetings. A very upbeat
6 individual, she answered the questions clearly and, if a
7 question was unclear to her, she was not afraid to ask for
8 clarification. So, during meetings, I have no question that
9 she would definitely speak her mind when needed, and do it
10 in a very diplomatic way. She is active in her community
11 and I think - or I would like to put her on the list for
12 possible candidates.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Sure. Thank you. Kerri.

14 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure. I did find this
15 candidate very qualified to be a Commissioner among the 60
16 for further consideration. She had a very pleasant demeanor
17 when she spoke to us. She spoke at a very good pace, also.
18 And she answers her questions directly. She wasn't impaired
19 in any way of formulating organized responses. And I liked
20 her - and you are right, Mary, she did say she wasn't shy in
21 asking for help, I noted that as a good quality, also. A
22 good Commissioner is going to have to question other
23 Commissioners and the public if they need to clarify certain
24 information; I think she is willing to do that to make sure
25 she gets it right. She does have a lot of community and

1 commission experience, and she appears to be a good leader,
2 also, as well, but she could be also very effective in
3 working with diverse groups. She seems to have a very
4 thoughtful process in approaching a consensus among the
5 group. And I particularly found her perception of trust and
6 higher voter participation and the effect that the
7 Commission can make in the redistricting effort. I believe
8 she's on board with fostering collaboration because she does
9 it quite frequently on the Health Advisory Panel, and find
10 that middle group perspective, like she said. Nasir, what
11 did you think?

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. I agree
13 totally with both of you. She was one of the candidates
14 that I had voted as favorable coming to this meeting, so I
15 agree with your description of her qualifications and
16 personality and ability to do the job. I have no doubt that
17 she's going to be successful, so it sounds to me like we all
18 agree on this individual being added to the list as a
19 favorable candidate. Thank you so much. Kerri, do you want
20 to go next?

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay. I'd like to bring up
22 for further consideration Elaine Kuo.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

24 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I will wait until Mary is
25 ready.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I'm good, thank you.

2 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I felt this candidate showed
3 great poise and was a very articulate individual. I believe
4 her responses were well thought out and I believe her - as a
5 UCLA Admissions Officer, I believe she is a great
6 communicator, she demonstrated it very well in our interview
7 and she has an ability to establish rapport easily with
8 others, and she seemed really down to earth and humble and
9 caring. She is a very intelligent individual from her
10 education and background. But I felt like she could speak
11 to all. And she speaks clearly and she is a great
12 communicator. Among other things, I think she had a good
13 understanding of recognizing the importance of coming to
14 compromise and listening to others in her examples that she
15 provided. She believes in good strong cohesion and a common
16 purpose and maintaining focus on that group goal. And she
17 is very aware, I believe, of what is required of a
18 Commissioner and the duties and obligations.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: I totally agree. Again, this is
20 one of the individuals that I had on my favorable list and I
21 am glad that you bring her forward, so I share a lot of
22 those comments that you just mentioned. I believe that she
23 will be very successful on the Commission. She is able to
24 connect with younger voters, which is important, as well.
25 She is highly educated and I agree with you that she has

1 this down to earth kind of personality, which makes it
2 easier for the Commissioners to interact with people, so
3 without hesitation, I would like to have her added to the
4 list.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with both of your
6 comments. I felt she was open and honest. And she also,
7 even though she lives in the Bay Area, she did go to school
8 down in Southern California, so she has that Southern
9 California perspective, also. So, I would agree, let's put
10 her on the list.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. And, of
12 course, it's my turn now. So we have added Elaine Kuo to
13 our list. I would like to bring Lillian Judd for
14 discussion.

15 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I have my materials.

16 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I have my materials also.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Ready, okay, thank you so much. I
18 voted favorable for Lillian Judd because, in my judgment,
19 she will be a good strong and successful Commissioner. She
20 is fully committed to the communities she has served, she is
21 passionate about those with no voice. She is well spoken,
22 informed, and she prepared extensively for the interview.
23 She knows where resources lie and has a sense of time
24 management and priorities of tasks, and she recognizes the
25 urgency of the tasks in the work of the Commission. She has

1 little formal higher education, but fully cognizant of
2 issues and she understands communities of interest, etc.
3 She really would love to serve on the Commission, so that
4 speaks volumes about her commitment, to give it her full
5 attention -- to make the Commission work successfully,
6 excuse me. So, I would like to have you guys consider her
7 for addition to the list, please.

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with you. She - very
9 active in her community, she's outgoing, she understands the
10 homeless and poor issues, she will be an effective public
11 speaker and at public meetings she would be able to interact
12 with the individuals. The only concern that I had was her -
13 when she talked, she gave us a lot of information, so I got
14 a little lost in her responses. However, I think she would
15 be able to do the job, so I would like to consider her and
16 put her on the list.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. Kerri?

18 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: She represents the Central
19 Coastal Area, the San Luis area.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: Right.

21 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I am comfortable putting her
22 on the list. I thought she had demonstrated in her
23 interview also that she understood the strong commitment to
24 Commission work. I thought she was very prepared about the
25 basic understanding of Commission work and the expectations

1 of the legal requirements. I do not think she had the
2 ability not to follow the law, I thought she could. And I
3 thought in her responses that she really thought that
4 outreach was very important to the redistricting effort, and
5 her collaboration and negotiation in her group experience, I
6 thought, was beneficial also. So, I agree. I think she
7 also has good writing -- she is a grant writer also?

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Uh huh.

9 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: So I believe that this
10 candidate should be placed on the list also.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. So it
12 sounds to me like we all agree on her being added to the
13 list. Thank you so much. Mary, do you have anyone else
14 that you want to bring forward for discussion?

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes. Charles Turner.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

17 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You can go ahead, Mary.

18 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay. This individual was
19 very knowledgeable. He has a PhD in Political Science, he
20 is from not a rural area, but just kind of in a very - I
21 would say a remote location in Butte County, I think it is -
22 in Northern Central, and I noticed that we didn't have any
23 individuals in the Northern Central Valley in our Democratic
24 pool. He was easy to talk to. He was able to think on his
25 feet pretty quickly. He was very engaging. I think he

1 would be able to interact with any individuals throughout
2 the state. He also has an understanding of Southern
3 California since he did go to school down there, so it's not
4 just a Northern California perspective, and it would be also
5 to bring in some Southern California perspective. I thought
6 it was amazing that he was active in the League of Women
7 Voters and he thought that was very important. He has some
8 media experience, which obviously when you're in open
9 meetings, you have to understand how to present yourself,
10 and I think he would be able to perform as a Commissioner.
11 What are your opinions?

12 CHAIR AHMADI: I totally agree with you. On this
13 individual, I have a strongly recommend opinion. One of the
14 reasons that I didn't vote to him coming to this meeting was
15 that we have got another Political Science Professor from
16 the same area, but it is a Republican candidate, not a
17 Democrat, so I had to choose between the two of them, they
18 are both, you know, PhDs and very knowledgeable in this
19 area, and they are both very successful. From the interview
20 that we had with Mr. Turner, he appeared to be very
21 thoughtful; he came across very thoughtful, gentle manner,
22 and would work well in a group, which is needed for the
23 Commission, to be a successful team player. He loves
24 California politics and he is active, involved with the
25 issues concerning - so I have no hesitation to agree with

1 you to put him back on our list for reconsideration, knowing
2 that we have another individual who matches almost the same
3 qualities in terms of work experience and knowledge-base,
4 being a Political Science Professor, same region.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You said you would be willing
7 or you would not?

8 CHAIR AHMADI: I would be willing.

9 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: You would be willing. And
10 who was the other individual that you were talking about?

11 CHAIR AHMADI: I believe this is our Republican -

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Wesley Hussey?

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes.

14 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Wesley Hussey.

16 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Well, this individual I did
17 actually want to bring up for further discussion. I found
18 him very pleasant in the way he was delivering his responses
19 to us. I thought that he was very effective in the
20 interview and can be very effective with the public and
21 fellow Commissioners. I felt like he gauged his time well,
22 as we know, some applicants had trouble doing that. And he
23 just had good pace, he didn't speak too fast, he didn't
24 speak too slow, and I felt him very engaging. I believe he
25 has the ability to work well with others and in a group

1 setting. I got the sense that in his decision-making, he is
2 very fair and impartial, and I thought he had a good idea of
3 the responsibilities of Commission work. So, I agree with
4 both of you.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, so if the two of you agree
6 that it's okay to have him and to have someone who are from
7 the same kind of knowledge base, because that was my
8 concern, I have no hesitation to agree that we should put
9 him back on the list.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: And I think it should be
11 noted that he represents the Northern Central Valley and
12 Mountain - right - in Butte, so I think that's pretty
13 beneficial, also.

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Sounds good, thank you. Your turn.

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, it's my turn? I just did
16 it. I brought up Turner.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: I am sorry. How about you, Kerri?
18 I am sorry.

19 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I will bring up somebody else
20 if you want me to. I can do that.

21 CHAIR AHMADI: Nice try.

22 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Oh, so it is my turn, right?

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, please.

24 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I would like to bring up for
25 further discussion Gabino Aguirre.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: I'm ready.

2 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay.

3 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I thought this candidate
4 appeared to be a very good listener, I thought he had good
5 problem solving skills. I thought he had relevant work
6 that, in his redistricting task force of Ventura County,
7 that could apply to the State's redistricting, at the State
8 level. He has involvement with the homeless in Santa Clara
9 and Ventura County. He was a Council member in the City of
10 Santa Paula. I thought he had experience in terms of
11 Commission work and he represents an area that I believe
12 we're limited, and also in Ventura, the Southern Coastal.
13 What are your thoughts on this candidate?

14 CHAIR AHMADI: I totally agree with you, Kerri.
15 Mr. Aguirre was one of my candidates that I wanted to bring
16 forward for inclusion on the list. I found him a very
17 distinguished individual, a very successful lifetime
18 educator. He has a heart for kids, families with special
19 education needs. He has a long history of community
20 service, and he has extensive involvement with communities
21 and schools, and he has a broad knowledge about the needs of
22 the people in certain areas, especially certain areas; a
23 good solid sense of commission's task ahead, so in my
24 judgment, he was an excellent individual to be placed on the
25 Commission.

1 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with both of you. He
2 would fit really well on the Commission. I have no problem
3 placing him on the list.

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. It is my
5 turn again. I'd like to bring Ms. Jeanne Raya for
6 discussion, please.

7 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I'm ready.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I'm ready also.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you. So, I came to
10 this meeting with a favorable vote for her. She is very -
11 going back to the interview experience that we had with her,
12 she is very composed, a quiet demeanor. Based on the
13 collective qualities that I saw in her application and how
14 she handled the interview questions, I have no doubt that
15 she is going to be successful on the Commission, being a
16 great team player, and having a good personal knowledge of
17 the issues and also the issues in certain areas, especially,
18 and also her involvement with the community. She has been
19 involved and kept in touch with the community and
20 participated in certain very valuable tasks and contributed
21 to the success of those tasks. So, I have in my notes one
22 example of composure under pressure at a school board
23 meeting during an exchange with an older gentleman. If you
24 guys remember from the example that she used in the
25 interview, I was really impressed with how she handled that,

1 so I have no doubt that she will be able to contribute in
2 that way to the Commission's work, which will be challenging
3 and stressful at times, I believe.

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I agree, Nasir. I found her
5 very pleasant. I think she would work well with other
6 Commissioner members. I think her La Raza Lawyers
7 Association of California - her legal services to the under-
8 represented communities, spoke a lot to relevancy to
9 Commission work, and she seems to have a lot of integrity,
10 and one with a strong moral compass as her letters of
11 recommendation said, I thought that, especially when we were
12 talking about her moral character subcommittee experience, I
13 mean, I found that - she did say it was difficult to be
14 impartial, but she did. And a lot of people think that it's
15 really easy, and it's not. And so, I thought she was very
16 honest and forthcoming. And I think she would make an
17 outstanding Commissioner.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. Mary, any thoughts on
19 her?

20 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with you, she was
21 very articulate, very composed, and she does bring a small
22 business experience to the Commission, so that's a great
23 perspective. And she'd be able to do the work, yes, I agree
24 we should put her on the list.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you very much. Next it

1 is your turn, Mary.

2 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, I would like to discuss

3 Maria Harris.

4 CHAIR AHMADI: I am ready.

5 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I have the materials, Mary.

6 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: You what?

7 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I have the materials.

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, okay. I was very

9 impressed. When she was speaking, she had a very calming

10 demeanor and she would be able to work effectively on the

11 Commission as a Commissioner and being out with the public,

12 and getting information from the public. I was very

13 impressed with her not being a lawyer, how much she knew of

14 the Voters FIRST Act, the law, the requirements within it,

15 so she fully understands what is required of her. She knows

16 and teachers Statistics of Research Methods, she was a

17 newspaper reporter, so those kind of give perspectives and

18 it would be very beneficial because I know during our

19 training that they were saying we definitely needed, or it

20 would be beneficial to have individuals with high

21 functioning math skills. She has also recruited and hired

22 for faculty for diversity, so she understands the importance

23 of diversity. So I'd like to put her on the list for

24 consideration.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: I totally agree with you, Mary.

1 She was another individual that I wanted to bring in. She
2 is practical, intelligent, down to earth, her knowledge and
3 experience, great for community involvement, and just going
4 on what you just commented on, her skills and abilities, I
5 have no doubt that she is going to be successful as a
6 Commissioner, so I agree with you.

7 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I agree with you, Mary, this
8 is a candidate that I also thought we should discuss
9 further. I believe what you said speaks well to the
10 qualities of a Commissioner, and how she has conducted
11 public presentations throughout the state. So I think she
12 has a good perspective on diversity and an appreciation for
13 all characteristics. So, I believe that we should put her
14 on the list.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. So, at this
16 point, I believe we have added seven individuals to our
17 list?

18 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Correct, there are 20 right
19 now.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: I don't have anybody else to add on
21 my list. Do you guys have anyone else that you want to add?

22 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: You - I'm sorry, Kerri?

23 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: We're at seven, you said?

24 MR. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Yes.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: We're at 20.

1 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: You're at a total of 20,
2 you've added seven.

3 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes.

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Oh, okay.

5 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: No, I don't have anyone to
6 add at this time.

7 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I think I don't either, I'm
8 satisfied.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. How about you Kerri?
10 Do you have anyone else that you want to add?

11 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: No, sorry, I was looking at
12 Stephanie, I should be looking at you.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. I think at this point, if
14 you don't mind, Stephanie, if you can read the names of
15 those that we added to the list, please?

16 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Sure.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: I appreciate that.

18 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Tangerine Brigham, Elaine
19 Kuo, Lillian Judd, Charles Turner, Gabino Aguirre, Jeanne
20 Raya, and Maria Harris.

21 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much, I appreciate it.
22 So, this is another major milestone. We have added
23 individuals that we had positive judgment about their
24 performance and all that, so I think at this point, unless
25 you have any other individuals for the other two piles that

1 you want to bring forward for discussion, I think at this
2 point we can take a short break and look back at the details
3 of the material that we have for those applicants, and
4 reconvene to discuss and finalize our decision.

5 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I would actually recommend
6 that you take maybe longer than a short break, I would
7 recommend that maybe you take an hour and a half, maybe even
8 two hours, and come back in at 3:00. I think you have a lot
9 of individuals where each of you said you wanted to poke
10 back at the transcript and take a look at certain things.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Maybe, yeah.

12 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: And so you should afford
13 yourselves time to do that, I think, before you come in and
14 make any final decisions.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: So do you guys think two hours
16 would be a good time?

17 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I am comfortable with that,
18 two hours, that is fine with me.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: How about if we reconvene at 3:00,
20 then?

21 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: That sounds good.

22 CHAIR AHMADI: We will come back at 3:00. Thank
23 you.

24 (Off the record at 1:03 p.m.)

25 (Back on the record at 3:00 p.m.)

1 CHAIR AHMADI: The hour being 3:00, we are back on
2 the record. Before our break, we decided on certain
3 individuals added back to the list, or the tentative list of
4 the Applicants, and in the next few minutes, or hours, I
5 should say, we will be discussing each one of those to make
6 sure that we decide on our final list of the 20 Republicans,
7 20 Democrats, and 20 Other.

8 Did you guys have - or did you guys have any
9 change of mind on those applicants that we unanimously
10 agreed on so far? We had 16 Republicans printed on the
11 Report of the Counsel, and we added two individuals that we
12 unanimously agreed on. If you don't have any changes in
13 mind -

14 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I think it's absolutely the
15 best way to do it is to pull - I don't know, if you have
16 people you want to add to the list, add to the list now, but
17 before you make a motion, you want to pull people off, so we
18 move them as a pool.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: Right, I'm not making a motion, I'm
20 just -

21 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Could we start with - we're
22 going to start with the Republicans, right?

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, definitely.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, I'd like to pull off
25 Cecilia White. After I went back to my office and took a

1 look at her on her interview, on her tape, and then at the
2 transcripts, I agree with you that, compared to the other
3 individuals that you have suggested, I think I'd be very
4 comfortable with taking her off the list.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: How about you, Kerri?

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Actually, I went back and
9 looked at Applicant Kerr and I decided after hearing your
10 concerns about this applicant that I am agreeable to remove
11 him from the list for further consideration, also.

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. And, of
13 course, I agree with both of you because he was not on my
14 list in the first place.

15 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Also, with Peter Yao, I went
16 back and took a look at his transcripts and his interview
17 video, and towards the end of the video, I think it was with
18 our Counsel, when she was asking Mr. Yao some questions
19 regarding his - what he thinks should be brought into - or
20 individuals that should be brought in to be heard, he
21 clarified what he said and I agree that he would be a good
22 candidate to include on the pool, so I think I'd like to
23 have him stay on the list.

24 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you very much. Good to
25 hear that. Do you have any thoughts or comments on him,

1 Kerri?

2 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: No, I actually wanted him on
3 the list, yeah.

4 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, so you and I initially -
5 okay.

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yeah.

7 CHAIR AHMADI: That's good, thank you so much.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: I agree that he is going to make a
10 good Commissioner. Do you want to continue, Mary? Or do
11 you want to take turns?

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Go ahead. Do you have
13 anything?

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, I do. I wanted to, as I
15 mentioned in my initial vote, I wanted to keep Salume
16 because I believe that his unique qualifications and
17 experiences, he'll be a good addition to the Commission.
18 And I know -

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I looked at - I had some
20 concerns with Salume and, as I look back in the record and I
21 look at my concerns, I look at the accomplishments that this
22 gentleman has achieved on his Board work for the school, and
23 I gave it some thought, and I thought maybe this is just a
24 personality issue about constantly interrupting.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: Exactly.

1 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: And if there is a need,
2 somebody may - there are 14 members, so I thought his
3 ability to maybe accomplish what he has done and
4 transferring that to the Commission was an overriding factor
5 than the things that I brought up, so I am willing to put
6 him as a list and agree with you and Mary because I believe,
7 Mary, you were agreeable with Salume, right?

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yes.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, thank you very much. And I
10 also went back and looked at the details of the transcript
11 one more time because I wanted to make sure that, you know,
12 I considered your comments, as well, and again, when you
13 look at his experiences being on a Grand Jury, for example,
14 being a School Board member, and also you know, his work
15 with the communities, you know, combined with other
16 qualifications that he brings, I think, as you mentioned,
17 you know, the experience that you had, or the perception
18 that you had during the interview, could be very well, you
19 know, his casual demeanor about, you know, feeling
20 comfortable to talk to people, and feeling okay to engage in
21 conversation in a less formal way, or a casual way, so I
22 appreciate the fact that you voted for him. Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Okay, then the remaining
24 individual is - I hope I'm saying her name - Peggy Huang.
25 Is it "Huang?"

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Huang. Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Do we feel comfortable with
3 those four individuals that we took, that they could fill
4 the Commission where we can take Peggy Huang off the list?

5 CHAIR AHMADI: I am very comfortable, yes.

6 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: And so am I, so we will take
7 Peggy off the list.

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay. And the last individual we
9 have is Larry Kerr.

10 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: We already talked about -

11 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I agreed to remove.

12 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I am at 20 right now. I
13 think you guys are kind of all over the place. You don't
14 know how easy it is to confuse a lawyer.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much.

16 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Do you want me to read the
17 list to make sure we're all - [alarm sounds] - I believe
18 that is actually a test, they have been testing all over the
19 building.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: They were doing that yesterday.

21 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Should we stand at ease?

22 CHAIR AHMADI: Yeah, we can stand at ease.

23 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Why don't we kill sound so
24 that our poor viewers remotely don't poke their ears out
25 while we stand at ease? I don't know if it's going to

1 continue.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: It's safe to just stand at ease.

3 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: It has been continuing a
4 few times.

5 (Off the record at 3:07 p.m.)

6 (Back on the record at 3:09 p.m.)

7 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you. We are back on the
8 record. We had a fire alarm which was just a test, so we
9 are still here. Stephanie, do you want to continue with the
10 names of the individuals that we agreed on for the
11 Republican pile?

12 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Correct. So, by my count,
13 we are at 23 Republicans right now, and I will read - would
14 you like me to read the entire list?

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Would you, please?

16 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I certainly will.

17 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

18 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Kathleen Beasley, Michael
19 Briggs, Jodie Filkins Webber, Wesley Hussey, Alan Skip
20 Jorgensen, Jeffrey Kwong, Gene Lee, Davin McAndrews, Susan
21 Miller, Gabriel Morales, Lilbert Gil Ontai, Christine
22 (Chris) Shipman, Gina Simas, James Vidal, Evelyn Volpa,
23 Michael Ward, David Ikari, Roy Salume, Peter Yao, Vincent
24 Barabba.

25 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you very much. So, I

1 suggest that we should move on to our next pile, which is
2 the Other pile, where applicants were not affiliated with
3 the Republican or Democratic Party.

4 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: May I start, Nasir?

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, please?

6 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Mary?

7 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Yeah, go ahead.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I just wanted to - I was
9 looking at I know many of these are the ones I brought up
10 and you had concerns about, and one of them was Panerio and
11 I listened to your concerns and what you said, and I thought
12 that I'm comfortable removing him from the pool.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much.

14 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: When I went back to my
15 office, I went and took another look at Patrick Perez, and I
16 noted that he was very approachable, he was articulate, he
17 would be able to work on a team, he'd be very focused for
18 consensus building, and I think he should stay on the list.

19 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you so much. Sorry, it
20 took me a while to get my notes straight. I wanted to keep
21 Ms. Teresa Espana in the pool.

22 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with you on her, I
24 think she would be a good addition, and I would like to keep
25 her also on the list.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Looking back at her application and
2 the detail in the material, I found her to be very
3 enthusiastic about the work of the Commission, a very good
4 community person, and I believe that she is passionate about
5 the Commission, and a highly educated individual. I know
6 you had some concerns, as you shared with us, but I believe
7 it is something she can, with the training and learning, I
8 don't have any concern about some of the comments that you
9 made. So I agree that we can add her back to the list, or
10 keep her on the list.

11 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I agreed to this candidate to
12 stay and I just thought that if you had a concern about
13 impartiality that I'd mention it, so I'm glad that you
14 decided to leave her.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, thank you. Is it your turn,
16 Mary? Or - I can move on with my next one, but I want to
17 keep - I wanted to keep Mr. Forbes. As I indicated in my
18 comments earlier, I believe he is going to be a very
19 effective Commissioner. I know - let me just get my notes
20 straight here - the one concern that you had, Kerri, about
21 his comment about the immigrants, I looked back at his
22 activities and the fact that he was involved with, looking
23 back at the transcript and all the details, I'm not going to
24 read all of it because it is on the record, but I believe,
25 you know, that his part or involvement with starting a

1 Spanish speaking school for the migrant kids is an
2 indication that, you know, he is trying to outreach, and I
3 have no concern about him having any opinion about
4 immigrants, like if I heard you correctly -

5 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Sure.

6 CHAIR AHMADI: So I am still comfortable to keep
7 him in the pool.

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Okay, I didn't express
9 reservation initially about this candidate, and I did re-
10 view his work on the Council, and how he tried to achieve
11 consensus in his interaction with group work, and I did see
12 that, I just - I had concerns about maybe his ability to get
13 along with others. And then I thought about it, and you
14 can't collaborate with others if you don't have a
15 personality - if you have a personality issue, or one that
16 does not work, so I felt like he just has maybe a different
17 sense of humor than I'm used to or something, but I'm
18 agreeable to look beyond that and look at the value and
19 maybe this individual can contribute to the Commission based
20 on the work that he has done so far on the Davis City
21 Council, that he did. So I agree with you now that he
22 should stay on the list.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much.

24 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: And I agree, I think he
25 should stay on the list, for what you both said.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Thanks again.

2 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So then, Mr. Allen we would
3 be taking off the list since that would be five - oh, sorry,
4 we agreed on Michelle DiGuilio -

5 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: DiGuilio-Matz.

6 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Oh, thank you. Sorry,
7 Michelle. Matz. And Velveth Schmitz?

8 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, we did.

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: So then that would be five
10 individuals if we do not include Allen. So we would take
11 Allen off the list, correct?

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Correct. So at this point, I think
13 we have 20, I believe?

14 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Correct.

15 CHAIR AHMADI: So if the panelists agree, if you
16 could just read those names also, please?

17 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Sure.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Just to make sure we are on the
19 same page.

20 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Correct. Thais Armenta,
21 Stuart Flashman, Connie Galambos Malloy, Sherman Gee,
22 William Hamm, Christine Hernlund, Patrick Jefferson, Byrd
23 Lochtie, Carl Luna, Paul McKaskle, M. Parvenu, Josefa
24 Salinas, Edward Scheidegger, D.J. Donna Jo Soviero, Maria
25 Stewart, Michelle DeGuilio-Matz, Patrick Perez, Stanley

1 Forbes, Velveth Schmitz, and Teresa Espana.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, that agrees with my
3 list. So, with that, since we have already agreed on the
4 20, on the Democratic Party, unless you want to discuss that
5 pile, I think we are in agreement that we have the 20
6 individuals for that Party.

7 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I am happy with the
9 individuals that we have selected, those additional seven.

10 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you. So, at this point
11 -

12 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Do you want me to read the
13 names?

14 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, I would really appreciate it,
15 you are so good at that.

16 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Victoria Aguayo Schupbach,
17 Angelo Ancheta, Kathryn Black, Maria Blanco, Cynthia Dai,
18 Richard Ford, Gregory Freeland, John Gamboa, Ann Marie
19 (Amber) Machamer, Fay Mason, Melissa Michelson, Brightstar
20 Ohlson, Leland Saito, Tangerine Brigham, Elaine Kuo, Lillian
21 Judd, Charles Turner, Gabino Aguirre, Jeanne Raya, Maria
22 Harris.

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, thank you very much. So at
24 this point, I think we are ready to make a motion.

25 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Several.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Several of them, yes. So, the
2 first one, and I would really appreciate it, Stephanie, if
3 you could help me with the names because I don't trust my
4 pronunciation of some of the names, and I don't want to
5 mispronounce the names, and I would really appreciate that.

6 I would like to move that we move forward the
7 following Republicans as part of the 60 of the most
8 qualified applicants. Please read the names.

9 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGWEAY: Kathleen Beasley, Michael
10 Briggs, Jodie Filkins Webber, Wesley Hussey, Alan (Skip)
11 Jorgenson, Jeffrey Kwong, Gene Lee, David McAndrews, Susan
12 Miller, Gabriel Morales, Lilbert "Gil" Ontai, Christine
13 "Chris" Shipman, Gina Simas, James Vidal, Evelyn Volpa,
14 Michael Ward, David Ikari, Roy Salume, Peter Yao, and
15 Vincent Barabba.

16 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. Do we have a second?

17 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I second that.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Okay, do we have any comments from
19 the public?

20 All in favor, please say "aye."

21 (Ayes.) All opposed, say "no." Seeing no
22 opposition, the motion is carried.

23 And at the same time, I would like to make another
24 motion to eliminate all those that are not -

25 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I think you should do that

1 at the end.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: At the end.

3 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I withdraw the motion,
4 sorry about that.

5 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: That's okay.

6 CHAIR AHMADI: But I can make the next motion,
7 which is I would like to move that we move the following
8 individuals who are not affiliated with either major party
9 of Republicans or Democrats, as part of the 60 of the most
10 qualified. Please read the names.

11 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Thais Armenta, Stuart
12 Flashman, Connie Galambos Malloy, Sherman Gee, William Hamm,
13 Christine Hernlund, Patrick Jefferson, Byrd Lochtie, Carl
14 Luna, Paul McKaskle, M. Parvenu, Josefa Salinas, Edward
15 Scheidegger, D.J. Donna Jo Soviero, Maria Stewart, Michelle
16 DeGuilio-Matz, Patrick Perez, Stanley Forbes, Velveth
17 Schmitz, and Teresa Espana.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. Do we have a second?

19 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Second.

20 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. Do we have any public
21 comments? Seeing none, all in favor, please say "aye."

22 (Ayes.) All opposed, say "no." Seeing no
23 opposition, the motion is carried.

24 I now move to make a motion to move the following
25 Democrats as part of the 60 most qualified applicants.

1 Please read the names.

2 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Victoria Aguayo Schupbach,
3 Angelo Ancheta, Kathryn Black, Maria Blanco, Cynthia Dai,
4 Richard Ford, Gregory Freeland, John Gamboa, Ann Marie
5 (Amber) Machamer, Fay Mason, Melissa Michelson, Brightstar
6 Ohlson, Leland Saito, Tangerine Brigham, Elaine Kuo, Lillian
7 Judd, Charles Turner, Gabino Aguirre, Jeanne Raya, and Maria
8 Harris.

9 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you. Do we have any public
10 comments? Seeing that we do not have any public comments,
11 is there a second?

12 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I will second that.

13 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you so much. All in favor,
14 can we say "aye?"

15 (Ayes.) All opposed, say "no." Seeing no
16 opposition, the motion is carried. Now, I can make the next
17 motion, which is to eliminate everyone else who is not
18 included in the 60 of the most qualified applicants. Do we
19 have a second?

20 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Second.

21 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: Do you want to take public
22 comment?

23 CHAIR AHMADI: Yes, any public comments? Seeing
24 that there are no public comments, all in favor, please say
25 "aye."

1 (Ayes.) All opposed, say "no." The motion is
2 carried. Thank you very much.

3 At this point, we are moving on to our next Agenda
4 Item, which is Item 7, a public comment session.

5 **ITEM 7. Public Comment Session**

6 CHAIR AHMADI: So, the Panel is looking forward to
7 hearing from our distinguished members of the public.
8 Please take the podium and state your name for the record.

9 MR. WRIGHT: Good afternoon, Jim Wright, a Voter
10 from San Jose. Congratulations, folks.

11 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, sir.

12 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Thank you.

14 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to publicly make a
15 comment that I passed on to Margarita Fernandez earlier, and
16 this is that, when the selection happens in November, when
17 the Bingo cage is used, and so on, that the Secretary of
18 State, either the current Secretary of State, the new one
19 after the election, be invited to participate in that event
20 because those are the first eight people that the Secretary
21 of State is going to be responsible for at the first of the
22 year, and I think they should show a little involvement, and
23 be invited to participate at that time. You guys have done
24 a fantastic job. Thank you on behalf of all the citizens of
25 California.

1 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, sir.

2 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Thank you so much, Mr.
4 Wright.

5 CHAIR AHMADI: Do we have any other comments from
6 the public? Seeing that we do not have any public comments,
7 members of the Panel, do you have any comments?

8 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I - Mary --

9 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: Go ahead, you can go first.

10 PANEL MEMBER SPANO: I don't have anything
11 prepared, but I just want to say that I think today was the
12 toughest day of my whole life, and choosing not only
13 bringing it down from over 30,000 to the 120, but these
14 applicants are so amazingly qualified, and brought so much
15 experience, and it was very difficult to select, at least
16 for me, the 60 of the most qualified. And I just want the
17 public to know that I tried really hard to - and I did
18 observe the law in meeting all those criteria, and
19 everything we mentioned on Monday in the qualifications.
20 But I did want to say that this experience has enriched me
21 in terms of learning about the various citizens of the State
22 of California and their accomplishments, and what they do to
23 make California a better place of all of us, especially the
24 participation in the political process. So, I just want to
25 say thank you to all for their value that they add to

1 California.

2 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR CAMACHO: I agree with you, Kerri. I
4 was humbled by the quality of the applicants that we had,
5 and it was very difficult to narrow it down to the 60
6 because there was so many qualified applicants. And it
7 humbled me to hear what each individual brought, or would
8 bring as a Commissioner, and it was hard. But I think the
9 individuals that we have here will do a great job for the
10 State of California, and that's what it is about, it's for
11 the people of California.

12 CHAIR AHMADI: Thank you, Mary. I also wanted to
13 share a few comments. You know, in my opening statement
14 back in February, I stated that, you know, I'll do my best
15 to do nothing but the best. And I just wanted to make sure
16 that residents of the State and especially our applicants,
17 understand that we have done our best. We took advantage of
18 every possible way that we could use to make sure that we
19 are not only effective, but also efficient. I just wanted
20 to once again thank the Honorable State Auditor, Elaine
21 Howle, for her support, and we asked for help and she
22 provided the help in terms of administrative support and
23 logistical support, and there are a lot of other individuals
24 from the Bureau of State Audits involved in this process,
25 they are behind the scenes, Stephen Russo, for example, has

1 worked very hard to help us with whatever information that
2 he could put his hands on in response to our requests and
3 our questions. Of course, our Counsel, who has helped us
4 tremendously. When I first started on the Redistricting -
5 on this panel - my information, or my knowledge about
6 redistricting was very limited, it was through the training
7 and her help that it made it very easy for us to do this
8 work. And although this was a challenge, I do not regret
9 it. I am honored to have been selected to serve on this
10 panel and I am very comfortable with the list that we have
11 decided on. So, thank you, everybody. I really appreciate
12 it and I enjoyed the work, and I learned from it. Thanks.
13 Stephanie, do you have any comments?

14 MS. RAMIREZ-RIDGEWAY: I don't. I think you guys
15 have said it all, so if there is no further business before
16 the Panel, we should adjourn. It is your last chance to hit
17 the gavel.

18 CHAIR AHMADI: All right, this meeting is now
19 adjourned.

20 (Adjourned at 3:34 p.m.)

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